www.saipantribune.com 50¢ Volume XIX, Issue No. 65 TUESDAY MARCH 17, 2009





OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Should the NMC board reconsider and reinstate Agnes McPhetres as a regent?

Let your voice be heard!

NSIDE



Optimist Ben

America's recession "probably" will end this year, says Ben Bernanke.

BUSINESS...Page 14



Lift Off

Discovery and its crew of seven rocketed into orbit, setting off on a space station construction mission.

NATION...Page 15



Want to be a big deal in films? There's one sure-fire way: Be born

LIFE & STYLE...Page 18

NMC board firm in decision on Agnes McPhetres. PAGE 2 Military exec to discuss 'tentative' plans for Tinian. PAGE 6

CUC application doesn't add up

By KRISTI EATON

ne of the grant applications the CNMI is planning to submit in hopes of receiving \$36 million in federal stimulus grant money for new power generators on Saipan seem to contain several inconsistencies.

on the Department of Commerce Web site last week, states that an independent board of directors has legal and fiduciary duty to protect the interests of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

But CUC has been without a board of directors for months after Gov. Benigno Fitial placed the utility company under a state of disaster emergency, suspending

The application, which was posted several laws, including PL 16-17 that mandates the creation of a board composed of eight members.

The grant application also states that CUC and the CNMI are complying with Public Law 15-87, which mandates that certain percentages of power come from a renewable energy source. CUC did not meet the 10 percent alternative energy

See CUC on Page 4



By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Bridge Capital LLC, which bought interest on the La Fiesta property in March 2007, is the only entity that responded to the government's request for proposal involving the lease, development or revitalization of the vacant La Fiesta Mall in San Roque.

The government, however, has yet to disclose whether a contract will be awarded to Bridge Capital LLC or if the RFP will be re-issued.

"Only Bridge Capital LLC responded to the RFP in question," Herman S. Sablan, director of the Division of Procurement and Supply, told Saipan Tribune yesterday, in response to an Open Government Act request in connection with the result of RFP09-SOF-051.

Since the former La Fiesta Mall shut its doors in 2004, the building has become a wasteland, yet it costs the government at least \$200,000 in annual lease payment to Bridge Capital LLC, a lending company.

Bridge Capital LLC is a different entity from Bridge Investment Group, which plans to operate a casino on Tinian. Bridge Capital LLC owned the now defunct Guam Greyhound Park racetrack.

See BRIDGE on Page 4



UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Alex Ayeres, an employee of GPPC Inc., uses a compactor at the site of the Micro Beach restroom and pathway project on the western side of the American Memorial Park in Garapan yesterday. The project is expected to be completed in June. See story on Page 2.

Visitor arrivals plummet 11.51 percent in February

By MONETH G. DEPOSA

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CNMI tourism numbers dropped significantly last month, as the stagnant economy in South Korea and its weakening

won contributed to an 11.51-percent drop in visitor arrivals.

Despite the lower arrivals, Marianas Visitors Authority said the Japanese and Russian markets remain "bright spots" for the Commonwealth's tourism industry.

Records showed that a total of 35,594 tourists visited Saipan, Rota, and Tinian in February 2009, compared to 40,222 that came to the islands in the same period in 2008.

See VISITOR on Page 4

Rota's ability to market itself as casino haven threatened by federalization

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

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REPORTER

Excluding Chinese tourists from the Guam-CNMI visa waiver program and the June 1 transition to federal immigration is threatening Rota's ability to attract

casino investors even as it already cut fees and allowed for a phased in casino development to meet the \$25 million required investment threshold to cope with the tough economic times.

"The result of the proposed interim rules will severely hamper Rota's abil-

ity to maximize its ability to market its casino industry, as well as future economic and business growth," Rota Casino Gaming Commission chair Diego M. Songao told the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Songao said a potential casino inves-

tor "is already significantly challenged with Rota's geographical location which makes it much more difficult to transport goods and services, lack of infrastructure support, airport and seaport facilities, costs of travel to Rota and costs of utility."

See ROTA'S on Page 4

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Local

NMC board firm in decision on McPhetres

By MONETH G. DEPOSA REPORTER

As far as the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents is concerned, Agnes McPhetres' resignation stands.

According to board chair Charles V. Cepeda, the mem-

bers are still "digesting" Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's letter to the board supporting McPhetres' reinstatement but the decision made in Friday's meeting to accept her resignation standsat least for now.

Fitial, after learn-

ing that the board had approved McPhetres' removal, had written to Cepeda late Friday, saying he still considers McPhetres an active member of the board as he didn't receive nor accepted the letter from the former regent, although it was leaked to the media.

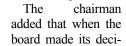
As the appointing authority to the NMC board, Fitial told the chairman that as far as his office is concerned McPhetres is still a board member because the resignation was not actually

tendered, served, or effectuated.

Yesterday, Cepeda admitted he had met with the board's legal counsels and had instructed them to further "review" the governor's letter.

"We're still digesting the governor's letter. We sat down today and discussed the various

scenarios with our legal counsel. We're expecting an opinion by tomorrow. However, at this moment, the board decision made last Friday still stands," Cepeda said.



sion Friday, they left all other options open.

Fitial, in hoping the board will reconsider its decision, had emphasized that when he and McPhetres met they agreed that the regent's resignation would not serve the best interest of NMC and the community.

"I hope this clears up any misunderstanding concerning the status of Regent McPhetres," Fitial told Cepeda.

However, Cepeda said yester-

day that based on the explanation provided by McPhetres during Friday's meeting, "she said she did deliver the resignation."

'Averting a costly court

Cepeda said the board will still "take a look and see if everything falls on firm legal ground" in its decision on McPhetres'

"The board had decided to accept the resignation and that's final. But then with respect to the governor, we would take a look and see if everything falls on firm legal ground," he said.

Cepeda admitted that the board does not want the issue to be dragged into the court because of litigation cost that may be involved.

"It's the reason why we're making sure that our decision is based on legal guidelines,"

Cepeda said the board is currently challenged by the "many distractions" that are affecting the students and the college's focus on completing the accreditation requirements.

"We want to put a rest to all

sible so that we can continue man said, adding an apology to been affected by the "mess."

these issues as quickly as post to move forward," the chairstudents and staffers who have

Fernandez: I stand strong for NMC students

By MONETH G. DEPOSA

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After weeks of evading questions about issues and concerns raised against her, Northern Marianas College president Dr. Carmen Fernandez finally broke her silence on Friday, saying she derives her strength from her students.

Fernandez, who has been criticized by some of the college's faculty and staff and was recently cited as among the reasons why a former regent resigned, indicated her willingness to "resolve" all issues besetting NMC.

"I stand strong because of my love for our students and I will always stand strong for the benefit of the students and of this institution. I am here to do everything I can do to help ensure that we get reaffirmed, maintain our accreditation, and ensure that the CNMI has an institution of higher education that we can be proud of," she told Saipan Tribune.

Fernandez admitted feeling sad for students who are suffering the consequences of all the issues being raised against NMC.

"I feel really bad all these events are occurring because ultimately it hurts our students. Everyone must consider the harm being inflicted on our students," she said.

It was reported Friday to the Board of Regents, through Associated Students of NMC president Ivan Mereb, that students are deeply concerned and worried about the "trust and confidence" issues facing the president and the college as a whole.

Fernandez said her management continues to adhere to its mission of "Students First."

Is the current situation at the college still manageable? "We just have to do our best and do what's right for our students given any situation," Fernandez said.

Comes April 1, a final report has to be submitted to the accrediting commission, which will decide the college's fate in June.

Despite the many distractions, Fernandez said

they are working well on the report, which is now in draft form. "We already drafted the report and next week, we will continue to focus on adding more evidence on actions that we've taken. We're also preparing for the team visit," she said.

The report focuses on linking the college's program review, planning and the budget process, she added.

As for the resignation of former regent Agnes McPhetres, Fernandez is convinced that the board acted in the best interest of NMC and students.

"I believe that the board acted on the best way

[they saw it] with the understanding of the situation and in considering the accreditation standards," she said.

Last Monday, Saipan Tribune learned that a grievance was filed with the management—an issue Fernandez refused to comment on, citing the confidentiality of personnel records.

Informed about the attendance and participation of three lawmakers in a

recent "secret" assembly of some faculty and administrators, Fernandez believes that she still has the trust, confidence and support of Reps. Heinz Hofschneider, Diego Benavente, and Ralph Torres.

Fernandez refused to comment when pressed if she believes there is "smear campaign" against her.

"There were no formal grievances filed. However, I have communicated with the management team and the entire NMC community, saying I am open to all of them. I instructed the management team that if there are issues of concern they must address them at their levels. Our goal is to reach a resolution to these concerns and come to an understanding," she said.

The president emphasized that NMC has established policies and procedures to adjudicate concerns of employees and these policies allow for conflicts to be resolved at the lowest levels.

NMC, she said, will continue to practice it, in support of the policies of the board and in respect to the accreditation standards, which dictate that NMC must have these types of procedures in place.

The project involves the demolition and re-

New restroom, concrete pathway now being built at Micro Beach

CLOSE

spects the progress yesterday of the Micro Beach

restroom and pathway project, which involves the

demolition and replacement of the old restroom

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

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By June, residents and tourists may be able to use the new Micro Beach restroom and concrete pathway that are under construction at the

Memorial

GPPC Inc. bagged the estimated \$300,000 construction contract, according to Cesar Munar, a site supervisor of GPPC Inc.

Munar said the project Cesar Munar, a site supervisor of GPPC Inc., in was originally targeted to be completed this month but because of permitting requirements and and the construction of about 500 feet of concrete the rain, the completion pathway on the western side of the American Medate was pushed back to morial Park in Garapan. around June.

"This place would be a lot better by then," Munar told Saipan Tribune yesterday as he was inspecting progress at the construction site.

placement of the old restroom, and the construction of about 500 feet of concrete pathway connecting the Micro Beach pavilion and the new restroom, the size of which is about 25 feet

by 25 feet. "The restroom will have a solar-paneled

roof, and the concrete pathway will be 8 feet wide," Munar added. Concrete pouring will start today.

American Memorial Park's Micro Beach is one of the most popular beach sites for picnics, swimming, windsurfing and other marine sports on Saipan. Erosion has taken its toll on the white sandy beach, which was one

of the reasons why the old Micro Beach restroom, which was just a few steps from the water, had to be demolished.





Gualo Rai, Middle Road • Mita Travel, Garapan

Alien worker caught lying told to leave NMI

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Giving false testimony before a Labor administrative hearing officer is a serious offense and may provide grounds for an alien worker's deportation, according to a Labor official.

Administrative hearing officer Jerry Cody pointed out that Public Law 15-108, the Employment Act of 2007, prohibits an employer or foreign national worker from making a "materially false statement"

the Executive Branch.

"It is a serious offense for someone to give false testimony after swearing an oath to tell the truth in a hearing before a hearing officer," Cody said.

Cody discussed the issue of lying before Labor in his administrative order denying Danilo A. Calumba's request to transfer to a new employer.

Cody ordered the Filipino worker to depart the CNMI within 45 days after finding out that Calumba lied during the administrative hearing,

Such conduct by a foreign national worker, Cody said, may provide grounds for deportation or the forfeiture of a worker's claims for money damages.

According to Labor records, Calumba had registered with Labor's Employment Services on Oct. 17, 2008, and was allowed to find an employer within 30 days. He failed to do so.

Sometime in October 2008, Calumba asked the Hearing Office for an extension of his transfer period. On Nov. 5, 2008, hearing officer Deanne Siemer denied Calumba's request.

The extension order was personally served on Calumba at the hearing office on Nov. 20, 2008. The order instructed him to report within seven days to the Labor Enforcement Section

to Labor or any employees of to make arrangements for his repatriation.

> The extension order also noted that "any aggrieved person" could appeal the order to the Labor Secretary within 15 days of the date of the order.

Calumba never appealed the order and never reported to the Labor Enforcement Section to arrange for his repatriation as instructed.

Instead, on Dec. 29, 2008, he submitted a new Employer Intent Form to Employment Services in an attempt to obtain an administrative order granting transfer to Ignacio C. Igbanlog Jr., owner of Carnot Air Conditioning.

In response to the new Employer Intent Form signed by Agbanlog, the Hearing Office issued a notice of hearing and objection to the proposed employment. The hearing was scheduled for Jan. 28, 2009.

During the hearing, Calumba was asked to confirm whether he had received a copy of the extension order in November 2008. Calumba testified that he had never seen the extension order, nor was he served with the order.

Even after being admonished by the hearing officer of his obligation to tell the truth, the petitioner continued to state that he had never seen the extension order.

A Hearing Office service record was then produced, which had been signed by Calumba on Nov. 20, 2008.

A Hearing Office staff testified that Calumba's signature in the logbook signified that Calumba had indeed been served with the extension order on Nov. 20, 2008.

The Labor investigator noted that Calumba was holding a small satchel containing some papers. When Calumba opened the satchel, the extension order was found amidst the papers in his possession.

At this point, Calumba tearfully admitted that he had, in fact, seen the order on Nov. 29, 2008, when it was served on him at the Hearing Office. Calumba admitted that he had lied under oath in the belief that it would help his case to do so.

In his order, Cody noted that the CNMI," he added.

another problem with this application was that Calumba's prospective employer, Carnot Airconditioning, had written a letter, attempting to cancel this employment due to the continuing economic crisis on Saipan.

Thus, Cody said, even if he had been inclined to give permission for this hiring, it could not have been approved for the prospective employer of record.

Even if all other facts were in his favor, Cody said, Calumba's act of falsely testifying in the hearing would justify denial of the petition and an order to depart the CNMI.

"In summary, the factual record establishes serious and troubling conduct on the part of Calumba that justifies the ultimate conclusion that this petition should be denied and that he should be ordered to leave

Lack of quorum delays talks on austerity bill

By KRISTI EATON

Due to a lack of members, a House Ways and Means Committee meeting was postponed yesterday, possibly further delaying the enactment of austerity measures.

Rep. Ray Yumul, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, said he was disappointed more members didn't show up to produce a quorum. Six of the 11 committee members must be present to discuss any legislation.

Rep. Victor Hocog asked Yumul to convene the meeting to discuss the intent of House Bill 16-223 that would set austerity Fridays and unpaid holidays, Yumul said. Hocog introduced the bill. Under the House rules, unless the member asks for the rules to be waived and the bill set on calendar, the legislation is assigned to the appropriate committee for discussion.

The Fitial administration has pushed for the austerity measures, particularly since the \$156.76 million Fiscal Year 2009 budget became law. The House overrode the \$156.76 million (\$148 million from local revenue) budget veto on their second attempt, and, with the Senate already having overridden the measure, the budget became law last week.

Without the austerity measures in place, mass layoffs are possible and the government could shut down as early as July, Finance Secretary Eloy Inos said last week.

Yumul said the House Ways and Means Committee would look at the bill "rigorously."

"And we will not leave any stone unturned," he added.

If Inos predicts further decline in revenue, he needs to officially inform the Legislature, Yumul said.

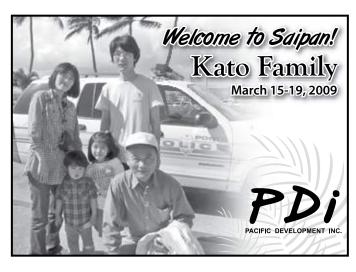
"If the Secretary of Finance feels even the \$148 [million] needs to be adjusted, we need to know in what direction, and by what dollar value, so we can make the changes accordingly," Yumul said.

The representative said he is neither for nor against the austerity measures. He needs to know the figures, he added.

"Absent of that information it's very difficult for me to even lobby the other members of this legislative body in any direction because, again, I'm not going to hide behind the politics of the issues," he said. "I'm a straightforward guy. If we're only collecting so much per quarter in dollars and cents from taxes and fees, we can only expend that very same amount."

House Speaker Arnold Palacios said passing a budget did not change the situation. Now there is just a spending ceiling.

One of his main concerns with the proposed austerity measure, he said, is for the civil service employees. For years they have not received their annual incremental salary increase, and the employees will have to endure another sacrifice with an across the board reduction.







CNMI presents oral argument in federalization case

The Commonwealth's challenge to the federalization law was heard by Judge Paul L. Freidman in the federal District Court in Washington, D.C. Thursday morning last week. The judge allotted more than two hours to the argument: each side had an initial 40 minutes and then each side had 20 minutes in rebuttal.

The Commonwealth was represented by David DeBruin of the law firm of Jenner & Block, assisted by Howard Willens, special legal counsel to the Governor who also serves as an assistant attorney general. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the U. S. Department of Labor were represented by Theodore Atkinson, a lawyer with the immigration section of

the Department of Justice. Mr. Atkinson was accompanied by the director of his section and three other lawyers.

DeBruin argued first because the Commonwealth's motion for an injunction against enforcement of the law was filed first. DeBruin emphasized the history of the Marianas and the reasons why the Covenant negotiators insisted on the right of local self-government, having been ruled by colonial powers for the prior three centuries. He addressed the hardships the Commonwealth will face if two-thirds of its private workforce and one-third of its small population are subject to deportation. He discussed at length the legal support for the Commonwealth's posi-

tion that all laws passed by Congress must respect the Commonwealth's self-government rights.

Atkinson argued that the Commonwealth has no standing to bring the action because, he said, all the harms from the law are just speculative. These harms may happen in the future, or they may not happen at all. He urged the court not to decide this matter now. Atkinson challenged the ripeness of the issues presented by the Commonwealth on the same ground, saying that the federal government might enact entirely benevolent regulations that would ameliorate all of the problems with which the Commonwealth was concerned. Atkinson also argued the le-

gal grounds why the immigration laws may be enacted by Congress without any regard for the Commonwealth's right to local self government. Atkinson said that it is the government's position that because the federal immigration laws were specifically mentioned in Section 503 of the Covenant, the Congress is free to apply those laws at any time in any manner it chooses.

Willens said that he was well pleased with all of the Commonwealth's briefs filed with the court, and he was especially pleased with the way the oral argument went. The Commonwealth's claims have been explained to the court fully and fairly, as Section 903 of the Covenant provides. See complete press release at www.saipantribune.com (PR)

VISITOR

From Page 1

The Korean market posted its fourth consecutive month of loss with 25 percent fewer arrivals compared to February last year, which saw 8,305 arrivals.

The number of air seats from Korea also dropped 14 percent compared to previous records in 2008.

MVA blamed the downward trend to the fall of the Korean won, which, according to the Bank of Korea, sank 25.7 percent against the U.S. dollar last year, becoming one of the world's worst performing currencies.

The spending of Korean tourists on overseas travel also declined sharply, again due to the weaker won and the economic slump. Their spending amounted to \$12.6 billion in 2008, down 25.4 percent from the previous year.

"While the Korean economy is down, fewer Koreans are traveling overseas," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio, adding that in January 2009, total outbound travel from Korea was down nearly 40 percent compared to January 2008.

"Many Korean travelers are heeding their government's request not to travel abroad," Tenorio said.

The continuous decline in arrivals was also attributed to the downsizing of Asiana Airlines' service to the Commonwealth. The airlines announced a decrease in its air capacity from Seoul to Saipan by using A321 aircraft from the former B767 aircraft starting March 28. B767 has air seats of 250, while A321 has 177 seats.

MVA said the carrier will also pull out its morning flights during off-season months, which is from March 29 until June 30.

Asiana Airlines will also decrease the number of weekly flights for the Busan-Saipan route from the current four to two from March 1 until July 16. This flight will be operated on Thursdays and Sundays using Airbus 321s from March 29.

The visitors agency said this tentative plan may change according to the volatile market situation. It noted that despite the economic downturn, the load factors for the route remained above 80 percent in February.

Lunar New Year affects China arrivals

MVA said the lower arrivals in Febru-

ary was also a result of the Lunar New Year holiday. MVA said the Lunar New Year fell in February last year. China arrivals were down 60 percent to 2,345, due in part to fewer flights from major cities, including Guangzhou.

In addition, the CNMI received only one cruise ship last month compared to three cruise ships and two military ships in February 2008.

The arrivals to the CNMI from Guam and the mainland U.S. were also down last month to 1,267 and 615 respectively, as were arrivals from the Philippines, Taiwan and other areas.

Japan arrivals increase 18 percent

On a positive note, arrivals from the primary market of Japan posted an 18-percent increase over a year ago to 22,275.

This was bolstered largely by a 35 percent additional air seats from Japan—25,971 seats in February 2009 compared to 19,198 seats in February 2008. This includes 182 additional seats added via the daily nighttime flights from Narita by Northwest Airlines, launched on July 2, 2008.

MVA cited the semi-annual survey of air capacity by the *Travel Journal*, which found that Saipan/Guam's market share increased by 4.15 percent versus the 3.71 percent a year earlier. The same survey indicated that Hawaii's share fell by 3.96 percent due to Continental Airlines' withdrawal.

"It's worthy to note that despite 12 percent fewer Japanese traveling outside the country in January 2009 versus January 2008, the Northern Marianas has been seeing an actual increase in Japanese arrivals over the last several months compared to last year," said Tenorio, adding that the travel trends from Japan demonstrate that in order to increase arrivals, the CNMI must both retain the air seats it has and seek every means to increase the number of seats.

"We're pleased to see an increase in February arrivals from Japan, but we are already seeing the effects of the air seat reductions by Northwest Airlines with its termination of daily service from Osaka beginning March 1. We are very concerned about additional reductions announced for the rest of the year."

The number of arrivals from Russia continued to grow, with 506 visitors arriving from Russia, or 46 percent more than last February.

ROTA'S

From Page 1

"The exclusion of China and Russia will be another severe blow to a prospective casino investor who would need to transport its customers from Guam and Asian countries," he added.

The Rota Casino Gaming Commission, however, has yet to name the potential casino investors on Rota.

March 17 deadline

The Rota Casino Gaming Commission is one of the 40 entities to comment so far on DHS' interim final rule establishing U.S. ports of entry in the CNMI and the establishment of a Guam-CNMI visa waiver program.

Today, March 17, is the last day for submitting comments on the federalization regulations.

Songao asked DHS to include Chinese and Russian tourists from those exempted from the U.S. visa requirement when entering the CNMI or Guam, saying that these markets' contributions cannot be overstated given the current economic crisis in the Commonwealth.

"Several prospective casino investors have informed us that the exclusion of China and Russia makes the casino investment even more difficult," he said.

Unlike Tinian which has one operating casino, the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino, and at least three other casino investors, Rota has yet to see a groundbreaking for its proposed casino industry two years after the Rota Casino Act of 2007 became law.

Songao said Rota's declining economic condition is drastic and alarming, citing increased fuel prices, exorbitant cost of utilities, and drop in tourism arrivals.

The chairman of the Rota Casino Gaming Commission also said the final interim report is unreliable and a180-day delay is needed to allow time for proper research on Rota.

He said the interim report concedes that it is unreliable for the following reasons: (1) Uncertainty in the multipliers used to calculate lost economic output, income and employment as a result of lost tourist spending; and (2) uncertainty in the assumption that the number of visitors or the amounts they spend in the CNMI will remain constant over the five-year analysis period.

"Even more disturbing, there has been absolutely no research done to show the severe economic impact that it will cause to the islands of Rota, its people and potential casino investment," Songao added.

He said China and Russia could still be included in the Guam-CNMI visa tive border control and national and homeland security.
"The Department of Homeland Se-

waiver program while ensuring effec-

"The Department of Homeland Security could implement added security measures needed when the U.S. has a substantial military investment here that would warrant such blanket approach. In conclusion, we strongly recommend the delay of the start of the transition period until the required additional security measures of Section III (A) (2) are in place and the DHS has determined that visitors from China and Russia can participate in the visa waiver program," said Songao.

The Tinian casino industry also earlier warned of the potential harm federalization could have on the casino investments on island, citing the exclusion of Chinese tourists from the federal visa waiver program and limited access to foreign labor pool. Tinian relies on Chinese tourists for its casino industry.

By June 1, CNMI immigration will be under federal control unless the start of the transition period is delayed, as called for by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Delegate Gregorio "Kilili" C. Sablan, the CNMI Legislature, the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, and many other individuals and groups.

Also by June 1, Chinese and Russian tourists will be required to secure a U.S. visa for entry into the CNMI and Guam.

will be given to proposals that will devel-

op the La Fiesta property "into a promis-

ing and sustainable tourist attraction and

entertainment complex," and the lease,

redevelopment and revitalization of the

La Fiesta property includes upgrading

and renovating all existing facilities with-

The deadline for submission was

in the commercial complex.

cause of its isolated location.

BRIDGE

From Page 1

Jon Anderson, loan officer for Bridge Capital LLC, yesterday said they have not received a formal notification from the government about the result of the RFP, although they already heard last week that they were the only one that submitted a proposal.

He said until they get a formal acknowledgement from the government, they wouldn't be able to disclose their specific plan for La Fiesta.

Back in December 2007, there were stories from the community that Bridge Capital LLC may have a role in efforts

to get gaming legalized on Saipan and a possible gambling operation at La Fiesta. Bridge Capital LLC was vague about it, saying they are interested in any opportunity that comes up.

In March 2007, Bridge Capital bought interest on the La Fiesta Mall property from the Japanese-owned Coco's Lagoon Development. The CNMI government, which acquired the building in 2004, is now paying Bridge Capital about \$200,000 a year for the lease of the idle property.

The Fitial administration earlier said it wants to make the former La Fiesta mall, located across Palms Resort in San Roque, "productive again."

The RFP said special consideration

Feb. 27 but off island entities had until March 10 to submit their proposal.

At one point, La Fiesta housed the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., and was eyed as a site for the Pacific Gateway education project, which did not materialize. Last year, it was also proposed as a site for adult businesses be-

Charles Reyes, press secretary for the Governor's Office. "Right now we are still in an emer-

gency situation," he added.

CUC executive director Antonio

Muna could not be reached for comment yesterday.

The issue would need to be brought up with the grant writers, Reyes said.

"The grant writers may have gone by the formal writing and not have factored in the state of emergency," he said. "We'll have to go back and check with the grant writers." The press secretary said he would also need to check with Commerce Secretary Mike Ada, who is in Washington D.C., to learn more about the stimulus project funding process. Ada has been tasked with overseeing the CNMI's effort for funding.

In regards to PL 15-87, Reyes said the law was very ambitious, even by United States standards.

"They are not all that realistic, to put it mildly," Reyes said, but, he added, CUC and the CNMI are trying to comply.

"I think we're attempting to comply. I think that's one of the reasons for the state of emergency," he said. "There's still intent to comply, but I don't think we've complied with the minimum requirements."

"Given the situation with the financial crisis for the government and CUC, I don't think we're meeting that goal, but the goal is still there to reach," he added.

CUC is one of the many local government agencies hoping to receive funding under the \$787 billion

stimulus law. The utility agency has several projects it is trying to fund using the federal money, but the CNMI must compete with other jurisdictions for any funds. The application in question is seeking \$36 million to add three diesel generators, each providing seven megawatts of power for a total of 21 megawatts.

According to a project list, CUC is applying for the grant as part of the Title IV Department of Energy funds that will distribute \$4.5 billion for electricity delivery and energy reliability.

CUC

From Page 1

requirement by the December 2008 deadline. Moreover, CUC was granted a waiver on the requirements for the time being. The application says the CNMI is actively drilling to measure geothermal energy, and has had positive results so far.

CUC does not have a board of directors because the utility agency is still under a state of emergency, said

A YEAR AFTER ENACTMENT OF THE LAW

NMI higher education commission still a 'proposal'

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA moneth deposa@saipantribune.com REPORTER

A year after the enactment of a law that dissolved the licensing function of the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents, the bill to create a

CNMI higher education commission remains a "proposal," pending favorable action by the Senate.

Saipan Tribune learned this yesterday following a check with the author of House Bill 16-58, which proposes to establish the commission as the licensing authority for postsecondary educational institutions in the CNMI.

Rep. Justo Quitugua introduced the bill in March 2008; the lower chamber approved it last year.

When asked about its current status, Quitugua said the measure is still being "reviewed" by the Senate for action.

"The enabling legislation is still in the Senate...and no action has been taken so far," he admitted.

The proposal to create the higher education commission became law after it was ratified in a referendum held in November 2007. After its ratification, the NMC Board of Regents lost the authority to license and regulate postsecondary institutions.

V. Cepeda yesterday said that all duties of the licensing body were transferred to the Executive Branch, through the Office of the Attorney General. These tasks include inspections, renewals, and assessment of all the licenses issued by the for-

decision to "let go" of these functions was also a result of the recommendation by the accrediting body, which said that NMC needs to focus its efforts on campus operations

Ouitugua believes the delay in the establishment of the commission will impact the CNMI's desire to have the islands become an educational hub for the region.

He wants the bill be acted upon by the Senate so the CNMI could start preparing for the necessary requirements of the new commission.

Based on Quitugua's bill, the commission must be composed of five members who will serve a six-year term and requires them to have a master's degree and at least five years of related work experience.

The measure also proposes no compensation for members.

funding for the commission will be appropriated by the Legislature, the amount of which will be determined by the commissioners when established.

The pending legislation also requires the hiring of an executive director who will be tasked to report to the commission.

Besides the adoption of rules and regulations, the higher education commission is mandated to establish application and licensing procedures, fees to be used for operating expenses of the commission, annual evaluation of postsecondary educational institutions currently licensed, and submit an annual report to the presiding officers of the Legislature.

The last provisional licenses issued by the NMC board included that of the University of Loyola at CNMI, Emmanuel College, and American Mediscience University.

Ex-Rep. Ada files for bankruptcy

ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com REPORTER

Former congressman Martin Borja Ada has filed a bankruptcy petition in the U.S. District

Court for the NMI. Under a Chapter 7 bankruptcy petition, Ada claimed to have a \$192,424.86 in total assets, but listed \$267,919.88 in total liabilities.

The bulk of the former lawmaker's assets are real property worth \$188,200.

Ada's liabilities consist of \$199,400 that he owes creditors holding secured claims, plus \$68,519.88 from creditors holding unsecured nonpriority claims.

\$199,400 claim. Ada also listed Marianas

Visitors Authority as among the creditors that he owes \$6,239 for "unknown reimbursement

the creditors holding secured

claims. Ada said the bank has a

travel expenses." Under a Chapter 7 bankruptcy petition, most assets of the debtor are liquidated as quickly as possible to pay off

his creditors to the extent possible and to free the debtor to start anew.

Last month, Bank of Guam filed a foreclosure lawsuit against Ada for allegedly refusing to pay over \$153,398 in loan



By KRISTI EATON

kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com

A bill has been introduced in the House of Representatives that would remove employer's obligations to pay for medical expenses related to pregnancies for nonresident workers.

Under HB 16-232, private sector employers of nonresident workers must continue to be responsible for medical expenses of the nonresident worker, including referrals and evacuation for medical treatment outside

the CNMI, and the of embalmand transporting the body back to the country of origin in the case of death. However, the bill eliminates the requirement that the employer must

Torres pay for any costs related to family planning, including pregnancies, delivery and prenatal checkups. The employee and his or her respective partner must be responsible for all costs associated with the medical expenses.

"When it comes down to a stomachache, headache or flu. that's not my problem. That's not my concern. But if an individual has decided to enhance their family, they should be responsible for it," said Rep. Ralph DLG Torres, who authored the bill.

He noted that employers do not pay for the same medical expenses for resident workers.

"Or any other medical privileg-

es, and nonresidents get that," he said. "Just to be fair, if you want to enhance your family that's fine, just be responsible."

Also, the legislation said, a nonresident female's employer is required to pay for such medical expenses but not an employer of a nonresident male.

The representative is not arguing whether the nonresident workers have a right to stay and work in the CNMI, he said.

"If they want to stay, that's your right. I don't argue that. but it's just when you want to

enhance your family, you should be responsible for that," Torres said.

If a worker is not able to pay \$30, how can they raise a child? he asked.

When asked if he fears such a measure

would force some nonresident workers to put off prenatal care,

"If you go there they're going to give you medical attention. No matter what. At the end of the day, when you're done with the delivery, I think the family should come back and say I make \$500 a month, obviously, I cannot make it, but \$50 a month would be enough. But just to totally give employers that responsibility, that's not right."

The issue is the biggest among many employers in terms of labor, Torres said, and he gets lots of complaints from people.



NMC board chair Charles mer licensing authority. Cepeda admitted that the and its students.

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Military exec to discuss 'tentative' plans for Tinian

haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com

Maj. Gen. Eugene G. Payne Jr., the assistant deputy commandant for the U.S. Marine Corps' Installations and Facilities, will be discussing with Tinian businesses the "tentative" military plans for the island that are separate from the \$15 billion Guam military buildup.

Payne is the keynote speaker at the Tinian Chamber of Commerce's monthly general membership meeting today starting at 11am at the Fleming Restaurant.

"The subject of his discussion with the Chamber of Commerce will be the tentative plans the Marines have for Tinian that are separate from the Joint Guam Program Office and the recent Mariana Islands Range Complex [draft environmental impact statement] published for comment," said Phillip Mendiola-Long, president of the revived Tinian Chamber of Commerce.

The U.S. military released for public comment an over 1,400page study on the potential environmental impact of increased military activities in training areas known as the Mariana Islands Range Complex.

The training and testing range complex Payne includes land, air and

sea areas on and around Guam, Rota, Tinian, Saipan and Farrallon de Medinilla.

The 45-day comment period ended yesterday, March 16.

Mendiola-Long invites the public to the meeting, which is free of charge, as the Tinian

merce will be hosting the event.

The first general membership meeting comes about a month after the Tinian Chamber of Commerce was revived and named Mendio-

la-Long president.

The group said it will be the voice of businesses on Tinian on issues such as the impact of a federal immigration system on the economy, the consequences of military activities, and capital improvement projects on the island.

downer sues $1\,\mathrm{l}$ for allegedly staying, tarming on her property

The CNMI Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition

is pleased to announce the....

th ANNUAL

from 2:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

A landowner has filed a lawsuit against 11 persons for allegedly staying on her piece of land on Saipan where they have planted vegetables for commercial purposes.

Maria O. Laniyo sued Li Mei Juan and 10 unnamed co-defendants for trespassing.

Laniyo, through counsel Vincent DLG. Torres, asked the CNMI Superior Court to order

the defendants to pay her damages and vacate the property immediately.

Torres stated in the complaint that she has fee simple title to the property, which measures 4,766 square meters.

Torres said that in September 2008, Laniyo wrote a letter to the defendants, advising them to vacate the land after Oct. 15, 2008 because she did not authorize

them to live on the property.

"Despite being notified, defendants did not vacate the property after Oct. 15, 2008, and instead continued living on it up until today," he said.

Torres said he on behalf of Laniyo wrote a letter on Feb. 5, 2009, informing defendant Juan to vacate the property no later than Feb. 13, 2009, because they had no authoriza-

KICK BUTTS DAY

march and rally on March 25, 2009

tion to live on that land.

The lawyer said to date, defendants are still living on the property.

Further, Torres said, from October 2008 through the present, defendants have farmed on the property by planting tomatoes, cabbage, radish, onions and other farm produce for purposes of selling them. (Ferdie de la Torre)

Graffiti artists still on the loose

The person responsible for the "xenocide" graffiti on Saipan is still on the loose, Saipan Tribune learned yesterday.

Department of Public Safety spokesperson Lei Ogumoro said no one has been arrested yet in connection with the spraypainting of "xenocide."

Ogumoro said the DPS Criminal Investigation Bureau's Juvenile Unit is still gathering information against the suspect.

Ogumoro expressed optimism that the suspect will soon fall because of "good leads" that investigators are pursuing.

Since last month, there has been a lull in the activity of the graffiti artist who has been spraying the

word "xenocide" on bus stops, public restrooms, library, private and government buildings, parks, and even vehicles.

DPS has urged the public to help police in arresting the vandal or vandals because it is instilling fear, especially in the tourism industry.

Describing the graffiti problem on the island as "uncontrollable," DPS has stepped up its operation against vandals.

Since last month, DPS has caught only one person—a male juvenile—who, along with two other male juveniles, spraypainted the public restroom at the Susupe Beach Park. (Ferdie de la Torre)

New bird species found in Solomons

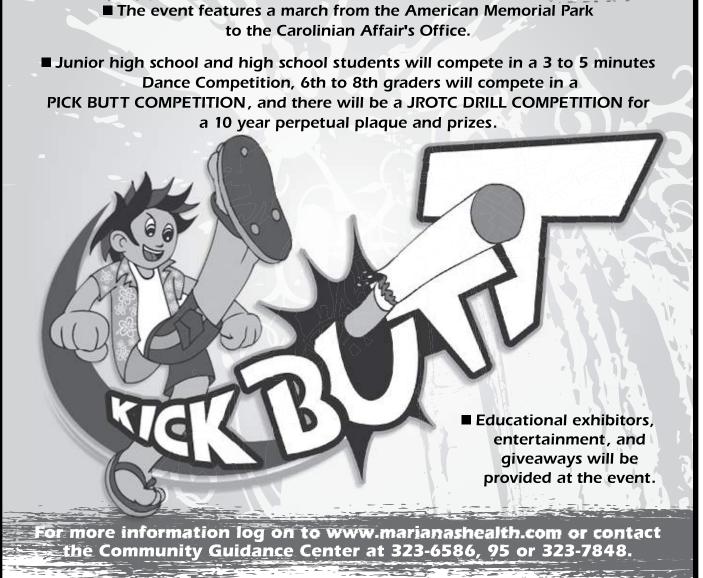
HONIARA, Solomon Islands land of Vanikoro.

(Solomon Star/PIR)—The recent discovery of the Vanikoro White-eye in the Solomon Islands reinforces the importance of conservation in the island countries, said Don Stewart, Director of BirdLife's Pacific Partnership Secretariat.

Dr Guy Dutson of BirdLife Australia led the team of scientists and conservationists who found the bird on the small is-

Vanikoro is a small island in Temotu province, at the eastern extreme of the Solomons'Islands.

Stewart said that the discovery of the white-eye, coupled with the rediscovery of birds that were thought extinct (like the Long-legged warbler in Fiji) stresses the importance of protecting the habitat where these birds have been found.





Northern Marianas College Procurement & Property Management

Office P.O. Box 501250 CK, Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A.
Tel: (670) 234-5498 ext. 2300/01/02 Fax: (670) 235-7601
mail: procurement@nmcnet.edu Website: www.nmcnet.ed

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL RFP NO.: 09-002

NMC FACILITY MASTER PLAN

Northern Marianas College is soliciting sealed proposals for its Facility

Specifications and Scope of Work packages may be picked up at the NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, commencing March 09, 2009 or Monday thru Friday between the hours of 8:30-11:30 a.m and 1:00-4:00pm.

Proposal Packages are due no later than 4:00 p.m, March 20,2009 Saipan time at the Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, BLDG L, 2nd Floor, Saipan, MP 96950. Article 7, "Local Preference" as amended by Public Laws 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is available to local vendors in this procurement. For Proposers located outside of the CNMI: You may request a copy of the RFP via fax (670) 235-7601 or e-mail to Anita Camacho (anitac@nmcnet.edu).

Pre-proposal meeting: March 13, 2009 at 2:00PM NMC Procurement Office, 2nd Floor, Bldg L Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. Northern Marianas College reserves the right to reject any and/or all proposals for any reason and waive any defect in said proposals. or cancel in part or its entirety this RFP, it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College.

All costs incurred by the proposer to prepare a response this solicitation and subsequent inquires shall be borne by the proposer. All submittals shall become the property of NMC and will not be returned.

/s/ Anita C. Camacho NMC Procurement Manager /s/ Rogelio L. Madriaga NMC, Chief Financial and Admin. Officer

OIA names speakers for April business conference

WASHINGTON, **D.C.**—The U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs announced Friday the featured speakers for the 2009 Conference on Business Opportunities in the Islands, which will be held at the Waikiki Sheraton in Honolulu on April 6-8, 2009.

Among those speaking will be Dr. Richard Kelley, chairman of the board, Outrigger Enterprises Group; Lt. General Wallace "Chip" Gregson, USMC (Ret.), former commander, Marine Forces Pacific; Maj. General David Bice, USMC (Ret.). director of the Joint Guam Program Office; and Dr. Stephen Schneider of Stanford University, who has authored many papers for the prestigious Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. In 2007, former U.S. Vice President Al Gore and several other IPCC contributors, including Dr. Schneider, received the Nobel Peace Prize.

They will be joining the leaders of the U.S.-affiliated Pacific

ON THE NET

www.lslandBusinessOpportunities.com

islands and business and government officials at the conference, including President Manny Mori of the Federated States of Micronesia, Gov. Felix Camacho of Guam, Gov. Togiola Tulafono of American Samoa, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial of the Northern Mariana Islands, Rep. Eni Faleomavaega of American Samoa, Rep. Madeleine Bordal-

sand beaches and turquoise wa-

ter, and caught a cultural din-

ner show. To learn more about

indigenous Chamorro and

Carolinian culture and history,

Starchikova interviewed assis-

tant general manager Gordon

Marciano of tour company PDI.

an island tour of prehistoric,

carved limestone monoliths at

Taga Latte Stone Park, World

War II historic sites, and other

locations, as well as lunch at

the local hotel and casino. The

final day of her trip was spent

exploring the island of Rota,

renowned for its natural beauty

and opportunities to experience

"We consider it a strong in-

indigenous Chamorro culture.

A day on Tinian included

lo of Guam, and Rep. Gregorio "Kilili" C. Sablan of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The conference is the department's flagship event to promote economic development in the U.S. territories and freely associated states and will feature discussions of new developments in renewable energy, infrastructure projects, and tourism op-

sians for a Moscow radio

station to send a journalist

to the NMI-at their own

cost, no less-to find out

what makes Saipan, Tinian

and Rota such an attractive

destination," said Marianas

Visitors Authority managing

director Perry Tenorio. "So

far, we continue to see more

visitors from Russia this year

than last, and they continue to

contribute significantly to our

Pevoe Popularnoe Radio

targets women ages 25-45

in the Moscow region with

programs focused on music,

culture, travel, food, health

and other information. The

radio feature is valued at up

tourism economy."

the opportunity to develop their networks, while learning about the growing business sectors and investment opportunities in American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, the Marshall Islands, Palau, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Featured topics at this year's conference will include:

- Renewable energy: Energy is a prime concern in the islands, and projects or solutions to increase energy efficiency and decrease dependence on expensive imported oil represent major business opportunities. For the first time, a full track of breakout sessions will be devoted to these projects.
- Large-scale public infrastructure work, especially construction projects associated with the military construction in Guam: As part of the historic realignment of the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Force, 8,000 Marines and their dependants will be relocated from Okinawa to Guam. This will require over US\$14 billion in new construction and procurement for infrastructure, as well as services to support the enlarged base. Construction is slated to begin in 2010.
- Tourism of all kinds: These areas are among the most pristine and beautiful islands in the

portunities. Attendees will have Pacific and Caribbean, if not the world. They offer a wealth of opportunities for small and large-scale hotel/resort development aimed at a wide range of clientele in both regions. The Pacific Asia Travel Association is helping plan the tourism track at the conference with the goal of increasing tourism opportunities on the islands and attracting more visitors.

> The conference will also include several networking events and, most importantly, prearranged one-on-one meetings, offering participants an opportunity to meet directly to discuss joint ventures.

> Registration is currently open at www.IslandBusinessOpportunities.com, and more information about this year's conference, as well as prior conferences, is also available on the site.

> The 2007 conference in Guam sold out two weeks before the opening day and drew a standing-room-only crowd of 800 participants, including the highest-level elected leaders from four of the seven island jurisdictions. Additional participants included U.S. congressional representatives, senior U.S. military officials, as well as hundreds of business people from the insular areas, the freely associated states, the United States mainland, and around the Pacific Rim. (DOI)

Moscow radio station shares NMI sights and sounds

Twelve million radio listeners in Russia recently had the opportunity to learn about the destination appeal of the Northern Mariana Islands through a six-minute feature aired two weeks ago on Pevoe Popularnoe Radio.

The radio report was filed March 6 by station journalist

Tatiana Starchikova, who visited the tropical islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota in late February and early March.

During her five-day stay, Starchikova visited and dined at several hotels, took a tour of the Saipan's scenic and historic sites, visited a local waterpark, toured Managaha Island's white

> Moscow's Pevoe Poularnoe Radio journalist Tatiana ences both the pre-historic and contemporary appeal of the Northern Mariana Islands including a stop at Taga Latte Stone Park on the island of Tinian on Feb. 28. limestone monoby the indigenous believed to have been the support columns of struc-

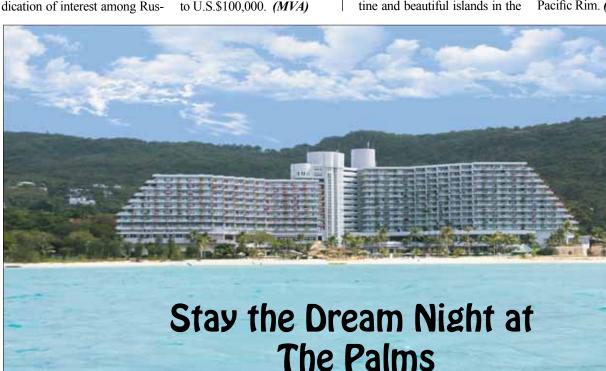




Super CPR Saturday







\$88.00/night

Oceanfront/view Standard Room and Facilities Package \$55.00 addt'l for inter-connecting room

inclusive of

breakfast or Sunday brunch for 2 ~ access to pool access to PC2 fitness center (cardio & pilates)

\$320.00/night

Junior Suite and Facilities Package

inclusive of: breakfast or Sunday brunch for $2\sim$ sunset bbq dinner for 260-minute shiatsu massage for 2 ~ access to club lounge access to pool ~ access to PC2 fitness center (cardio & pilates)

Deluxe Room and Facilities Package \$55.00 addt'l for inter-connecting room breakfast or Sunday brunch for $2 \sim 60$ -minute shiatsu massage for 2

\$180.00/night

access to club lounge ~ access to pool access to PC2 fitness center (cardio & pilates)

\$520.00/night

Mariana Suite and Facilities Package

inclusive of:

breakfast or Sunday brunch for $2 \sim$ teppan-yaki dinner set for 260-minute shiatsu massage for 2 ~ access to club lounge access to pool ~ access to PC2 fitness center (cardio & pilates)



Valid from $3/16/2009 \sim 05/31/2009$ (subject to availability)

all inclusive of room tax 50% food & beverage disount coupon at any restaurants during stay maximum 2-adults & 2 child or 3 adults per room

For more information or reservation, please call The Palms at 670-322-3311.

Valid Local ID required other conditions may apply.

Call NMI Chapter at 234-3459 for reservations Hurry sign up today... space limited to 100 participants First come first serve basis. Must be present for entire class to receive certification

• Student Fee: \$3 (valid student ID needed)

• Venue: Fiesta Resort & Spa, Hibiscus Hall

• Date: March 21, 2009 Saturday

Regular Price for CPR class is \$35

• Time: 8:00AM-12:00PM

• Participants Fee: \$5

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

USS Hampton arrives today

The USS *Hampton*, a 362-foot Los Angeles-class submarine with approximately 110 officers and crew, will arrive this morning, March 17, 2009. This will be the *Hampton*'s first visit to Saipan. The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will be represented at the onboard arrival briefing. Please help us continue to build our reputation as the preferred MWR (Morale, Welfare, and Recreation) destination in the Asia-Pacific Region by warmly welcoming these sailors to our islands. The *Hampton* is scheduled to depart next Monday. (SCC)

Kagman High PTSA meeting

Attention parents and guardians of Kagman High School students: There will be a PTSA meeting today, Tuesday, March 17, 2009, from 6pm to 7pm. All parents, guardians, staff, and students from the north side of the island such as Marpi, As Matuis, San Roque, Tanapag, and Sadog Tasi are asked to go to Gregorio

T. Camacho Elementary School Library to attend the meeting through VTC. For more information, call 237-3840 or 237-3832, Fax 664-3788. (PR)

Red Cross Walkathon set

The 23rd Annual American Red Cross Walkathon will be held on March 28, at 6am, starting at the 4H Building on Beach Road in Susupe.

Register for \$15 and receive a free t-shirt. Walkers start at the designated starting point, then walk north toward the Garapan Fishing Base, then back to Susupe.

Drinks and sandwiches will be available at the start and finish points, and along the routes. Protect yourselves, the young and the old by following the directions of the safety officers. Prizes are available and have been generously donated by the business community. For more information contact the Red Cross Chapter at 234-3459. (PR)

Next Marriage Encounter Weekend set

PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance with the "Open Government Act", the Public School System State Board of

Education, through their Special Education State Advisory Panel (SESAP), is hereby

This meeting is open to the public, interested individuals are welcomed to attend. In compli-

ance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this

meeting, but require accessibility such as large print, sign language or interpreter, must call

237-3029/82. Several days' notice is necessary to allow organizers ample time to make

/s/ Suzanne W. Lizama

necessary arrangements. The meeting agenda will be made available at the meeting.

serving notice to the general public that it will hold its quarterly meeting on:

Location: Napu Room, Pacific Islands Club

Date: Friday, March 20, 2009

Time: 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm

/s/ Frank Rabauliman

Chairperson

Help turn a good marriage into a great marriage through a Worldwide Marriage En-Weekend! counter The CNMI's next Marriage Encounter Weekend will be held on March 27-29, 2009 at the Saipan Grand Hotel. Cost is \$50 per couple.

For further information or a registration form, contact any of the following individuals:

- Jun and Linda Pangelinan, linpangelinan@ 483-4111, gmail.com;
- Tony and Lynne Yarobwemal, 234-5053, tonyy822@ gmail.com;
- Mark and Jenni Aguon, 287-9742, markaguon@gmail.com and apakaaguon@yahoo.com;
- John and Vicky Mafnas, 285-8454, vbmafnas@yahoo.com;

You may also contact the ecclesiastical team/executive board members

- Fr. Ike Ayuyu, 285-9324, ike@ayuyu.us;
- Charles and Cathy Cepeda, 483-6435, charlesvcepeda@ gmail.com or nannakit@hotmail.com. (PR)

The Lions of Iwo Jima book signing in Guam

War in the Pacific National Historical Park announced that the Arizona Memorial Museum Association will host a book signing event. The Lions of Iwo Jima, written by authors Maj. Gen. Fred Hayes, USMC (retired) and James A. Warren, captures the untold stories of the battle of Iwo Jima and sheds new light on the Marine Corps' finest hour.

"This riveting and memorable account of the horrors and heroics of Iwo Jima is much more than another war story. It is about courage, grief, sacrifice, and most of all, about honor," said NBC News' Tom Brokaw.

Hayes, who helped plan and coordinate Combat Team 28's battle for Iwo Jima, will be in Guam today, March 17, to autograph personal copies of this book at the mezzanine of the Outrigger Hotel in Tumon, Guam, from 9 am to 2 pm. (PR)

day K4 program

Saipan International School announced that a new Early Childprogram will be a full day pro-

Thematic units are used to integrate the curriculum and provide students with an opportunity to explore and build foundations in all curricular subject areas. Emphasis is placed on language arts, math, science and social studies. Children develop positive attitudes toward themselves, other children, their environment, and the learning process while learning basic educational skills needed for the following school years.

If you have any questions about this new program, contact Dr. Dale Jenkins, Headmaster, at 288 9660. (PR)

SIS announces new full

hood Education program for 4-year-old children. Beginning in August 2009, the school's K4 gram from 7:45am to 2:45pm.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands **Commonwealth Board of Nurse Examiners**

UBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Commonwealth Board of Nurse Examiners Board of Directors, is hereby giving notice that the Board will be meeting Thursday, Friday and Saturday, March 19-21, 2009. The meeting will be held at the Rota health Center Conference Room, Songsong Village, Rota.

AGENDA

- Preliminary Matters -
- Call to Order
- Adoption of Minutes -1. January 20-21, 2009
- IV. Adoption of Agenda
- Unfinished Business VI.
- - 1. Rules and Regulations (outline, NCSBN APRN standard)
 - 2. Relocation of CBNE office
 - 3. DPW quotation for office renovation Quotation for scanner
 - 5. Letter from M.M.
- VI. RHC Clinic Visit -
- VII. New Business -
 - 1. Update on NCSBN mid-year meeting
 - 2. Nursing Program without clinicals
 - 3. Change of Office Manager's position title to reflect actual duties
 - 4. Administrative support for CBNE 5. Miscellaneous
- VIII. Adjournment

/s/ Bertha P. Camacho, NP Chairperson

COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT **PUBLIC NOTICE**



Acting Coordinator, EC/SPED Program

The Coastal Resources Management Office is hosting a forum for marine sports operators and affiliates on Wednesday,

March 25, 2009 from 8AM-4PM at the Palms Resort. Other interested marine sports enthusiasts are also welcome to attend.

The purpose of the forum is to update everyone about local and federal rules, regulations and laws that must be followed in order for marine sports operations to remain in compliance with CRM Permit conditions.

Please contact CRMO at 664-8300/1 to confirm your attendance and for more information.

/s/ JOHN B. JOYNER

Director

Coastal Resources Management Office



March 17, 1999

EIC trickles out soon

The government is close to releasing portion of the \$6.2 million in Earned Income Credit to over 2,500 recipients after Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio convened his financial advisers to finalize a payment plan for the release of the long delayed EIC checks. In a meeting yesterday, the governor instructed his finance managers to begin disbursing the checks as soon as possible even on an installment basis if money is still short to pay the full amount. "A lot of people are concerned about EIC and what we are doing is drawing up recommendations so we can start distributing some money to people entitle to receive the benefit," Tenorio told reporters.

CIP bill climbs final hurdle

Under pressure to fast-track construction of the new prison, the House of Representatives yesterday approved Senate amendment to a legislation appropriating close to \$23 million in capital improvement project funds to set in motion a massive infrastructure plan in the CNMI. Members voted unanimously to pass House Bill 11-380 despite whining by some representatives frustrated over non-inclusion of pet projects in the list from their respective precincts. It now heads to Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio for signing into law after nearly a month since House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Karl T. Reves filed the bill in efforts to steer the local economy from the worsening impact of the Asian recession.

March 17, 2003

Is it legal or not?

The Senate Executive Appointments and Governmental Investigations Committee is expected to deliberate tomorrow on the fate of Customs and Quarantine Special Assistant Frank I. Taitano's nomination to the Civil Service Commission board, amid two conflicting legal opinions entered by the Governor's office and the Office of the Senate Legal Counsel. Committee Chairman Joaquin G. Adriano said yesterday he will gather his members to decide on the possibility of submitting a certified question to clarify the issue, or if the committee should just ask Gov. Juan N. Babauta to recall Taitano's nomination. Quoting the Senate legal counsel's analysis of the nomination, Adriano said the Senate cannot move forward with Taitano's confirmation because it would violate Commonwealth Code § 8111.

MHS holds 17th annual cultural day

Marianas High School students joined at least 130 Japanese cultural exchange program participants in a whole day of fun Saturday to mark the 17th Annual MHS-Seisa Gakuen Cultural Exchange Program. With this year's theme, "Let's Build A Friendship Bridge Between Marianas and Seisa," students from both schools rendered performances during the event, which kicked off at 9am and lasted up to 4pm yesterday. Entertainment program coordinator Roxanne Diaz said the event was held to strengthen the bond between MHS and Seisa Gakuen students, who will be paired during the three-day student cultural exchange program.

March 17, 2004

Parental choice of schools opposed

The Public School System is opposing the passage of a House bill that would allow parents to freely choose which school within the system to send their children. Associate education commissioner Rita A. Sablan, in a letter to the Legislature, said allowing parents to move their children from school to school "in search of the 'best' school will reduce PSS to a game of musical chairs." "We must say no to this House bill [14-94]," she said. "I see this bill [as having] very negative [effect] on [PSS]. The bottom line [is] this bill is one more way for resources to be directed away from keeping the best public system in place to giving options for more private schools to operate without much regard to the interest of the public."

WASC warns NMC anew on CSC coverage

The Western Association of Schools and Colleges has warned Northern Marianas College anew on its accreditation, in view of a pending Senate bill proposing to place the college under the Civil Service Commission. Barbara Beno, executive director of WASC's Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, said in a March 11, 2004 letter to NMC Board of Regents chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds that the commission has not changed its requirements on the matter of institutional autonomy.

NMI gets \$19.4M energy grants

Northern Marianas is slated to receive over \$19.4 million for energy conservation and efficiency projects from the economic stimulus bill passed by Congress last month.

In an announcement by Vice President Joe Biden and Energy Secretary Steven Chu, they explained how the energy grant funds will be distributed to states and territories, emphasizing that the fund amounts are based on formulas in the law, not on grant applications.

"The energy grants are some of the largest pots of money that Congress is sending to local governments," said CNMI Rep. Gregorio C. Sablan. "This money is meant to create jobs, to put new money into the economy for short-term stimulus, and to build a base for our long-term economic well-being.

"Having \$19.4 million all at once is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to make our economy more energy efficient and to make investments in alternative sources of energy," said Sablan.

Biden and Chu announced two grant programs. The one likely to touch the most people most quickly is the Weatherization Assistance Program.

Sablan said that families can get up \$6,500 to make their homes more energy efficient by upgrading old air-conditioners and water heaters, insulating walls and roofs, installing thermal windows, and sealing cracks around doors and windows that waste energy.

Families making up to 200 percent of the federal poverty level qualify for the weatherization grants. A family of four making less that \$44,000 a year would be eligible, for instance. Priority is also given to man'amko, people with disabilities, and families with children.

The CNMI will receive \$614,967 to distribute to families for weatherization and another \$180,239 training and



STALLION HONORED

Nisha Shrestha, a senior at Tinian High School, received a very prestigious invitation to join The National Society of High School Scholars "because of your outstanding scholastic achievement and academic excellence," according to chairman Claes Nobel of the world-renowned Nobel Prizes. This invitation opens up a variety of opportunities and resources for Shrestha, including access to scholarships, leadership development programs, and service activities.

Each state and territory is given a minimum grant for the weatherization program. Additional funds are added to the base depending on the number of low-income households, climatic conditions, and residential energy expenditure by low-income households.

The larger grant of \$18,651,000 can be used to give rebates to consumers for homeenergy audits or other energysaving improvements; to develop renewable-energy projects for clean electricity generation and for alternative fuels; to promote Energy Star products; to upgrade government buildings so they are more energy efficient; and for other efforts to help save families money on their energy bills.

The \$18.7 million State Energy Program grant is also distributed by a formula, but the CNMI

government will be required to meet three standards in order to receive all of the money:

- The governor must confirm with the U.S. Secretary of Energy that it is the policy of the agency that sets rates for electricity to encourage customers to use energy more efficiently.
- The governor must attest that the Commonwealth will adopt energy-efficient building codes and a plan for achieving 90 percent compliance with the code within eight years for new and renovated buildings. The CNMI will also be required to file an annual compliance report.
- Lastly, the governor will have to prioritize expenditure of the \$18.7 million on energy efficiency and renewable energy programs, including retrofitting buildings and financing deployment of renewables. (PR)



Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the NMI Retirement Fund Board of Trustees/Workers' Compensation Commission/Group Health & Life Insurance Trust Fund, are hereby giving notice that the Board of Trustees will hold its Regular meeting on Thursday, March 19, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. at the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission Office, San Jose, Village, Tinian.

AGENDA

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Adoption of Agenda
- Adoption of Minutes of Meeting: 1. January 13, 2009
 - February 27, 2009

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Report of the Chairman
- 1. ROC No. 09-003 Report of the Administrator / Correspondence
- ROA No. 09-003
- Status Updates Report of the Comptroller
 - Financials NMIRF
 - GHLITF
 - WCC
 - Drawdown Requests CGECU Status Update
- Reports of the Committees
- Finance & Investment Committee
 - Operations & Personnel Committee
 - Policies, Programs & Legislative Review Committee GH&L and WCC Committee
- Reports of the Investment Director Status of Investment/Market Condition
- John Rice Presentation -
- Recommendations Report of Housing Loan Program
- MPLT Fee Sharing Proposal Update
 - Communications
 - Internal Auditor Reports

Double Dipping Audit Update

Other Matters

LEGAL MATTERS

- Reports of the Legal Counsels 1. Report of the Board Counsel

 - b) Other Legal Matters Report of the In-house Counsel
 - Update on Administrative Appeals Report of the Hearing Officer

OLD BUSINESS

- BR 08-001 Matters
- Pension Application Matters
- b) P.L. 15-98
- c) Disability Applicants Request for Exemption – J.A. Tenorio
- Request for Exemption M. Gerbens
- Request for Exemption M. Ogo Cost Benefit Analysis Automated Board Meeting Packages - Update
- Legal Representation

NEW BUSINESS

MPLT - S.A. Ogo **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- MISCELLANEOUS
 - Announcements
 - Next Meeting Adjournment

JUAN T. GUERRERO CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Commonwealth I Sankattan Siha Na Islas Mariana Ofisinan I Gubietno Dipåttamenton I Tano' Pupbliku

NOTISIAN MAPROPONE POT ATKILON TÅNO' PUPBLIKU

Kinonsiste ni Seksiona 106 (b) gi Lai Pupbliku 15-2, I Dipåttamenton I Tano' Pupbliku man nånå'i' notisia pot I intension na para u ma'atkila I tano' pupbliku giya Saipan, Commonwealth I Sankattan Siha Na Islas Mariana. Maseha håyi na petsona gi pupbliku heneråt siña muna halom opinion, infotmasion, kinontran testimonio pot para u kuentåyi I propositun I Kontråtan Atkilon. Ni maprobeniyi mås ginen I Lai Pupbliku 15-2, manisisita para u mapupblika I man impotånte na infotmasion gi sigente:

- I tano' pupbliku ni ma'atkila madeskribi kumo Sitio Numiro 190 E 01 a konsisiste kåsi 4,809 square meters menos osino mås, ni gaige gi Lower Base giya Saipan. Kopian I lugåt I sitio gaige gi Dipåttamenton I Tano' Pupbliku para
- I para u atkila I Cargo Express (Saipan), Inc., un koporasion giya CNMI. I Direktot I Kuetpon I koporasion I man sigente: si Liberato C. Legaspi, Marie Christine T. Legaspi, Alejo C. Legaspi, yan si Lawrence Lemuel T. Legaspi.
 - I presidente I koporasion si Liberato C. Legaspi. I segundon I presidete si Marie Christine T. Legaspi. I sekretårio si Lawrence Lemuel T. Legaspi. I tresurerun si Aleio C. Legaspi.
- Si Siñot Liberato C. Legaspi yan si Siñot Noel Masongsong a negosio I kontråta para I mapropone na atkilon.
- I para u fanatkila debi u na'setbi i tano' solamenti para u na'guaha' fasilidåt para muna'hanao kåtga siha.
 - I tiempon I mapropositu na Kontråtan Atkilon bente-singko åños (25 yrs.), gai' chånsa para u ekstiende para talo kinse åños (15 yrs.).
 - I mapropositu na åpas atkilon gi sakkan durånten I tiempo sigun I mapega na presiu pot I baliña I lugåt.
- I kabåles na kopian I Kontråtan Atkilon siña u machule' gi Ofisinan I Dipåttamenton I Tano' Pupbliku, ni gaige gi mina dos na bibienda gi Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, giya Saipan, mina dos bibienda gi Bank of Saipan Commercial Building giya Luta, fine'nina na bibienda gi Kings Commercial Building giya Tinian.
- Ti maresibe' ottro na klåsen propositu ni I Dipåttamenton I Tano' Pupbliku ni para u ma'atkila I tano' giya Lower
- I Sekritårio gi Dipåttamenton I Tano' Pupbliku siempre a aksepta tinige' opinion, mensåhen kinontra yan testimonio osino ottro siha na propositu ginen I man enteresao na petsona gi pat åntes di Matso 23, 2009 gi Ofisinan I Dipåttamenton I Tano' Pupbliku ni gaige giya Saipan, Tinian yan Luta.

ARONGORONG REEL POMWOL AKKILONUL FALÚWEER TOULAP

Sángi Tálil 106 (b) mellól Alléghúl Toulap ye 15-2, Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap ekke atotoowow ammataf igha ebwe akkilaaló eghús falúw mellól Seipél, Commonwealth Téél Falúwasch Marianas. Schóókka eyoor máfiyeer rebwe isisilong ischil mángámangiir, aweewe, aingiingil reel pomwol akkilonul ammwelil falúweer toulap. Me bwal Alléghúl Toulap ye 15-2, e ayoora, lamal aweewe kka rebwe mweiti ngali milikka ebwe akkatééló.

- Pomwol akkilonul falúweer toulap ekke bwáári Lot No.190 E 01, eyoor faawu sangaras walabwughúw tiwoow (4,809 square meters), elap me ngáre eghús, elo Lower Base, Seipél. Tilighial bwuley yeel nge eyoor llól Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap (Public Lands) ngare óubwe ghuley fischiy.
- Schéschéél schóól akkilon nge Cargo Express (Saipan), Inc., CNMI corporation. Schóóy mwiisch mellol Corporation nge Liberato C. Legaspi, Marie Christine T. Legaspi, Alejo C. Legaspi, me Lawrence Lemuel T. Legaspi.
- Schóóy assamwool nge Liberato C. Legaspi, Vice President nge Marie Christine T. Legaspi, sekkretario nge Alejo C. Legaspi, treasurer nge Lawrence Lemuel T. Legaspi.
- Schóól aweweel akkilon nge Mr. Liberato C. Legaspi me Mr. Noel C. Masongsong.
- Schóóy akkilon ebwe yááli bwuley reel leliyel ammwelil kkaragha schagh.
 - Tool aighúghúl pomwol akkilon ebwe ruweigh me limwoow ráágh (25 years), emmwel rebwe sóbweey ngáli bwal seigh me limwoow ráágh (15 years).
 - Pomwol akkilon ebwe mwir sángi llapal méél falúw (value of the property) fengal me milikka re ayuuw mellol faluv
- Emmwel óubwe bwughil tilighial akkilon mellól bwulasiyool ammwelil falúweer toulap, elo aruwowal pwó(2nd $floor)\ me\ Joeten\ Dandan\ Commercial\ Building\ ll\'ol\ Dandan\ ,\ Seip\'el;\ aruwowal\ pw\'o\ (2nd\ floor)\ mell\'ol\ Bank\ of\ Saipan$ Commercial Buiding, Luuta; me ngáre mmwal pwó (1st floor) mellól Kings Commercial Building, Tchúlúyól.
- Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge esáál bweibwogh mwo akkááw pomwol akkilon yeel me Lower Base,

Samwoolul Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap ebwe bwughil aweewe kkaal, aingiingil, mereer amweyút aramas mmwal schagh Mááilap (March) 23, 2009 mellól Depattamentool Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap iye elo Seipél, Luuta me Tchúlúyól.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to lease certain public lands in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published

- The proposed lease of public land is described as Lot No. 190 E 01, containing an area of approximately 4,809 square meters, more or less, situated in Lower Base, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands for inspection.
- iii. The prospective lessee is Cargo Express (Saipan), Inc., a CNMI corporation. The board of directors of the corporation are Liberato C. Legaspi, Marie Christine T. Legaspi, Alejo C. Legaspi, and Lawrence Lemuel T. Legaspi
 - The President of the corporation is Liberato C. Legaspi. The vice president is Marie Christine T. Legaspi. The secretary is Lawrence Lemuel T. Legaspi. The Treasurer is Alejo C. Legaspi.
- The proposed lease was negotiated by Mr. Liberato C. Legaspi and Mr. Noel C. Masongsong.
- The lessee shall use the premises solely for the purpose of developing and operating a freight forwarding facility.
 - The term of the proposed lease agreement is 25 years, with an option to extend the lease for an additional 15 years.
 - The proposed annual rental during the term is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property including existing structures. A copy of the proposed lease agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on

the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; the 2nd floor of the Bank of Saipan

- Commercial Building, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land in Lower Base,
- The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before March 23, 2009 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in

10 TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2009 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Opinion



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EDITORIAL

A moral stand

resident Obama's pronouncement on stem cell research last week, as we noted at the time, was only a partial decision. He decreed that federal funding of such research could go forward on a much broader scale than President George W. Bush had permitted. But he didn't say whether it could proceed on stem cells derived from embryos created specifically for the purpose of research. This is in large part an ethical question. Mr. Obama is right to turn to scientists for advice on the matter, but he should not hide behind them in making the ultimate decision.

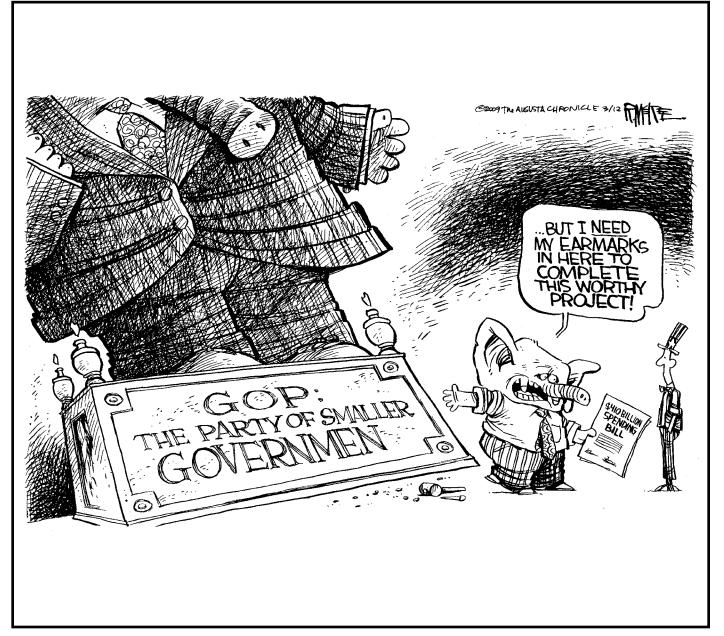
Embryonic stem cell research is thought to hold great promise for the treatment of Parkinson's and other debilitating diseases and conditions. But many Americans are troubled by the destruction of human embryos that such research requires. As a result, Mr. Bush limited federal funding to research on stem cell lines in existence at the time of his 2001 decision; there would be no incentive for further creation or destruction of embryos for experimentation.

A breakthrough came in 2007: Scientists learned to develop stem cells from adult skin cells. Some argued that this would end the need to use embryos. Others, though, said that the field was too young to close off any avenue, and that the embryonic lines available under Mr. Bush's order had proved too limiting.

Mr. Obama accepted the latter argument, and we supported him. In so doing, though, he shunned a possible compromise: to allow research on stem cell lines grown from embryos that were created in fertility laboratories but never implanted. Thousands are frozen and awaiting destruction; with permission of the egg and sperm donors, they might satisfy researchers' needs. Mr. Obama did not embrace this opportunity to reach out to opponents—not all of whom, of course, would have been satisfied by such a compromise.

The president has asked the National Institutes of Health to develop guidelines for research. Scientists can develop rules to make sure donors are dealt with ethically. If the scientists so believe, they can present reasons why existing frozen embryos aren't enough—why research would benefit from having embryos created. But it's not the job of the scientist to decide whether those reasons outweigh concerns about such a practice. That's the president's job. He should listen to the scientists' arguments, make his decision and—as Mr. Bush did in 2001—explain it to the American people.

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The crisis within the economic crisis

By SONNI EFRON

SPECIAL TO THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

he economic crisis has now spread from Wall Street to Main Street to the places where there are no streets.

In slums and shacks around the world, hunger is gnawing again as job opportunities shrink but food prices do not. Global cereal prices are 71 percent higher than they were in 2005, according to the International Monetary Fund, but the wages of many workers are falling.

This is a disaster for the bottom billion, the one out of six humans living on less than \$2 a day. But as always, the poor have a problem getting our attention—especially when the rich have lost half their wealth.

Today's attention deficit is this: Starving children with bloated bellies make for horrific video footage, and the world opens its wallet. But chronic malnutrition, degradation and misery—suffering that causes real pain but falls short of mass famine—is being pushed off the front pages by the frightening global economic news.

Last year, skyrocketing food prices sparked violent protests in 30 countries and scared many more into making generous donations. The United States doubled its contribution to the U.N. World Food Program. Saudi Arabia handed over a check for \$500 million. All told, the world kicked in an extra \$2.3 billion. As a result, the U.N. program was able to add 30 million people to the rolls of those being fed, and disaster was averted.

But it was a short-term fix. The chronic, underlying causes of food insecurity haven't been addressed. So warnings that hunger is growing again should come as no surprise.

What is perplexing is that on the global market, prices of such food commodities as maize, wheat and rice have fallen by 35 percent to 50 percent in the last year (although they are still 50 percent higher than in 2005, according to the International Monetary Fund). Oil prices have collapsed too. Yet the price of food at the retail level around the world shows no signs of falling.

How can this be? The causes are myriad: pricing lags, hoarding, speculation, war, profiteering, food export controls, droughts in China and Argentina, and the age-old reluctance to lower prices, which economists call "stickiness."

As usual, in the poorest places the situation is stickiest.

In Afghanistan, a standard food basket cost 73 percent more in October than it did a year earlier. In February, the charity Mercy

Corps found that Afghan families were skipping meals, eating boiled turnips instead of bread and pulling their boys out of school to shine shoes in the market. One family married off a young daughter even earlier than planned to collect the wedding gift from the groom's family—\$160.

In Tajikistan, more than a third of the nation's gross domestic product comes from remittances sent home from migrant workers in Russia, according to the World Bank. As the global economic crisis and the fall in oil prices ravage Russia, those workers are being fired. This also has become a problem in remittance-dependent Haiti, Jordan and Kyrgyzstan—three countries where instability could create bad political problems for their neighbors.

In Zambia, whenever the world price of copper declines, unemployment rises. Copper mined there is exported for use in the production of computers, refrigerators, autos and machinery, and slumping industrial demand caused the price of copper to plummet 54 percent last year. That means more hunger in Zambia, where nearly half of all children under 5 have stunted growth.

World Bank President Robert B. Zoellick has called for the developed countries to set aside 0.7 percent of stimulus funds for vulnerable countries. This is sensible: It's always far cheaper to prevent hunger, increase production and position food stocks where famines may loom than it is to buy food on the open market during panics, when prices jump. But how much is the developed world willing to invest in foreign food security when its governments are running up record deficits to stimulate their own economies?

The World Food Program says it will need \$6 billion this year, \$1 billion more than in 2008. So far, it's only raised 10 percent of that. It will take vastly more—and more than money—to fix the long-term problems that create hunger: under-investment in agriculture and food infrastructure, particularly in Africa; urban development on farmland; and climate change, which will make all of the problems worse.

And then there's the unchecked population growth that eats up whatever gains many poor countries manage to make.

If the Group of 20 leading and developing nations meeting in London this weekend pushes the food problem to the back burner to focus only on financial stabilization, the annual begging for emergency food aid—the most expensive, least sustainable form of foreign aid—will never end. And neither will the suffering.

Efron, a former reporter and editorial writer at the Los Angeles Times, is a contributing editor to the Times' Opinion section.

The Saipan Tribune welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are entirely in the contributor. of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Letters to the Editor

Land grab?

The Saipan Tribune article, "Legislature OKs deal for \$300M Tinian casino" dated March 10, 2009, seems to be an excellent summary of the recent lease of public land to Neo Gold Wings Paradise. When I read the article it occurred to me, "Was this a good deal for the CNMI or the investor? Using only the information cited in the article I decided to take a look to see who benefits from the lease, especially short term.

A total of 300-hectares of land, or 3,000,000 square meters (about 741 acres or 1.16 square miles, which is 2.8 percent of the total landmass of Tinian) were leased. The first and second year payments are only \$72,000. There are no guarantees that the "grandiose" development ever will be completed. The lease will be voided only if development is not done in 30 months.

If the land is valued at \$30 per square meter (which seems reasonable) that means the value of the land is roughly \$90,000,000. The investor gains control of the land with this value for at least two years at \$72,000/year. The investment leverage ratio is about 1/1250 or \$1 from Gold Wing for \$1,250 CNMI land value. Many venture capital investors are happy with investments at a ratio of 1/22, which means this is a very good deal for Gold Wing investors.

Neo Gold Wing can hold the land hoping that land values will go up or that they can sell the lease to others for a large financial gain. (Perhaps the lease agreement would prevent this from happening?) Not a good deal for the CNMI! At least a 5-percent deposit on the land value demanded up front would have been fair and would help keep the investor honest to deliver on their promises.

Recent land lease history in the CNMI should have raised serious concerns regarding investors with no track record, no marketing plans, no revenue projections in their business plan, many unknowns even as to who the investors really are, and these should have raised a flag for going forward with the deal. Rep. Tina Sablan is correct to raise concerns. I too am afraid that the diligence to evaluate the deal was not done properly. I understand the push by the Senate and House members to find money at the end of the rainbow. But only if we keep our eyes open can we find anything.

I sincerely hope that this deal is real and not just another land grab.

Frank Stewart Capital Hill

Clarification

To Wence T. Aquino: I do not want to discuss federalization other then to tell you that I am on the CNMI side. I am a Republican and as such I believe that local government should administer local affairs. I am with you: Democrats are the ones who want to place everything under federal control. This is what the Obama Administration is doing right now.

I want you to know that the Islamic terrorist threat is not the fault of America. About 30 years ago they started a long list of attacks on America. When Jimmy Carter was president they hijacked a jet passenger plane, killed a young man, threw his body out the front door of the plane onto the tarmac and then flew the plane to Iran. They held the crew and passengers hostage for 454 days. President Carter tried to rescue them but the mission failed because the helicopters crashed in a dust storm.

From 30 years ago, no President has taken any action to stop terrorism until after 9/11. Then President Bush had no alternative.

In addition to my U.S. Marine Corps time I am retired from the Army National Guard. I was under orders for the Gulf War and my son and my nephew went to the Iraq War. My son came home with an injury. My nephew was OK but he went back four times to train Iraqi police and military. This effort and that of the young men from the CNMI is not to bomb them into submission; it is to liberate them so that they are free from Saddam and the terrorists. We did that for Japan and Germany and for Saipan, and for many other countries around the world. That's the American way!

I wrote the last letter to make this issue clear. I don't want people mistakenly accusing America. I wish you and the good people of the CNMI the very best.

Franklin Keiper Mayer, Arizona

Downsizing the American Dream

By FREDERIC MORTON

'hat must be done to restore the American dream?

The White House, Congress, the media—all are consumed by the need to solve the problem. Neglected in the ferment is an issue underlying all others: the need to reform the American dream itself.

The dream acts as an unwritten constitution of the United States, governing our conduct. Our written one has checks and balances; it evolves through debated amendments and reasoned court interpretations. Our unwritten one soars beyond check or balance; it is updated continuously by whatever glitters beyond the edge of our means.

Today's scary headlines reflect the force of this unwritten constitution. It mandates a steely ambition, a heroic greed braving all consequences. Result? Our economic catastrophe. So many executives made so many wrong decisions not because they lacked competence but because they couldn't resist the common pressure—higher, bigger, more—driving them to their folly. Many of them knew better; none could resist the boundless compulsion of the American dream.

Now, it may be argued that our passion for the out-of-reach is the very dynamic that (to use a long-familiar phrase) "has made this country great." But has it made us happy? And how much of our happiness is the bright mask of stress? The picture of a helicopteraccoutered yacht glowing from a glossy page inflames (to use a newly familiar phrase) "the audacity of hope." Of course, Barack Obama's book has nothing to do with luxury craft. It's title, though, plays on a basic Yankee emotion. The audacity invoked transcends hope. It is fueled by the fiercest expectation: "Impossible is American"; that's our martinet motto.

In other words, a dweller in the land content with the possible falls short of America's spirit; he fails his country's stern, normshattering exceptionalism. The map of your truly American life charts a freeway leading from a log cabin, literal or figurative, to the White House, literal or figurative (that is, to the movie icon's aerie or the billionaire's topiary garden). No intermediate destination is recorded on this map; no speed limit, no rest stop, no side roads, not even a space for getting out to enjoy the scenery.

If only there weren't just one Bill Gates, one Elvis Presley, one Barack Obama able to even approximate such a journey. With the rest of us, audacity tends to curdle into personal thwarting, social malaise and, sooner or later, general economic disaster.

Sooner or later has arrived. Now we look back to the 1930s, the last time we visited upon ourselves a similar suffering.

In those days, we managed to ease the pain by agreeing to temper the dream. With the New Deal, we toned down the adamant commitment to absolute individual fulfillment. We woke up our dormant response to the comfort and warmth of the communal. We discovered we could savor realistic contentment; we didn't need to keep panting after triumph. Many of us in the bleachers learned to enjoy the game as fully as those few behind home plate. By reordering our inner attitudes, we produced the outward political will to remake the nation.

Can we do it again? The contrast between presidents now and then may complicate the process. Franklin Roosevelt was a beneficiary of privilege gained by unbridled private ambition. Hence his moderating of such ambition made him a persuasive role model. Obama's project has parallels to the New Deal, yet his biography is almost the opposite of the New Deal architect's. It suggests the invincible self, predestined for barrier-smashing. His legend sees him marching from the back of the bus straight into the Oval Office. Without intending to, he has made the trajectory of the superstar even more prescriptive. He can't help stoking over-the-top American optimism, whose very excess is seductive and addictive.

From that addiction we are not easily weaned. Quite a number of us may have voted for Obama not just to prove ourselves post-racist but by way of denying the debacle of the unmitigated American dream. We voted to reinstate the impossible as a national idea, a legitimate obsession, a must for you and me.

Therefore, I put the question to you and me: Do we have the courage to free ourselves from the fixation on the exceptional? Shall we try to dream a dream less extreme? Can we give up the mania that must crash into depression?

Morton is the author of Thunder at Twilight: Vienna 1913/1914 and A Nervous Splendor: Vienna 1888-1889, a musical version of which has just opened in Vienna, Austria.

I blame you, but it's OK

By JOEL STEIN

leave the petty details of fixing this economic crisis to others. I shall focus on a far more important task: assigning blame. I particularly want someone to blame because last Friday, Best Life magazine offered me \$7,500 to write a cover story on actor John Krasinski, which I accepted because I'm a huge fan of both Krasinski and \$7,500. But on Wednesday, Best Life folded, and now I'll never get to meet that \$7,500.

My first target was former Fed chief Alan Greenspan, partly because he's made himself vulnerable by apologizing and mostly because he sort of looks like Mr. Burns on "The Simpsons." But then I thought back to my interviews on a bench in Central Park on Sept. 10, 2001, of liberal economist Paul Krugman and a conservative economist for a CNN segment called Global Village Idiot that never aired for reasons, obviously, that had to do with Wolf Blitzer being threatened by more handsome competition. Krugman and the other guy blamed Greenspan for not dropping interest rates fast and hard enough after the dot-com crash. Now, we're all blaming Greenspan for making money too easy to borrow. But the truth is that the man who chided us for "irrational exuberance" was trying to hold the avalanche back. Also, we can't blame Greenspan because we used up his time forcing him to testify in front of Congress every few weeks so lawmakers could ask him how inflation works. Between those hearings and the ones about steroids and virtual online worlds, Congress was just a really bad junior college.

George W. Bush seemed like an awesome person to blame because even though bashing him is totally pointless now, it can still get you on The Times' most-e-mailed list or a special on HBO. And Bush did amass government debt by idiotically lowering taxes and waging pointless wars. (Note to editor: Use that last sentence in the headline.) But Bush isn't the one who leveraged banks and insurance companies at ratios unsustainable through credit default swaps. We can be sure of this because there's no way he understood any of that.

That leaves the bankers. Blaming bankers is a great idea because it worked so well in "It's a Wonderful Life" and in every game of Monopoly. Bankers are rich, don't produce anything useful, take government handouts, commit usury with sneaky credit card offers and stammer in heist movies. And just as it was stupid to loan

money to people in the 1920s so they could buy stocks, it was pretty stupid for bankers to give out all those highly leveraged real estate loans when there were plenty of signs of serious risk. The Economist was running covers on the dangers of the housing bubble, house prices vs. salaries were historically out of whack, half my friends were waiting to buy a house until prices came down, and one of the fastest-growing regions was Phoenix. Seriously, somebody should have flown out to look at Phoenix.

Sure, bankers should suffer for their excessive risks. But it's just not satisfying to blame the people who are getting stiffed on the loans they made. Which leaves the people who amassed more debt than they could handle. Which means, I blame you.

Household debt—mortgages, credit cards, car payments, bookies—is now at 100 percent of the gross domestic product. If we all worked for a year and didn't eat or pay taxes, we could just pay off our debt. The only other time it's been even close to this high was right before the Depression. "The problem is us," Columbia University professor David Beim told NPR. "Our living standard has been rising dramatically in the last 25 years. And we have been borrowing much of the money to make that prosperity happen." One of the clearest indicators of financial panic is that I'm listening to economists on NPR.

We are so far down the borrowing hole that it's hard to believe that the advice on buying a house used to be to spend twice your salary. At some point—and it seems to be when you owe as much as your salary—you panic and stop borrowing and buying, and instead start paying off debt. That's when you suddenly think, "\$1 million for a two bedroom is crazy," and the Ponzi scheme falls apart. Then the markets overcorrect as irrational exuberance turns to irrational fear, and debt vs. GDP plummets past even normal levels. And John Krasinski has to spend the night alone.

The thing is, though, I can't stay mad at you. Partly because you're just a rhetorical construct I built for this column. But also because your irrational exuberance is what made the last 25 years so great. Your irresponsible borrowing gave us tasting menus and backyard bouncy castles. If I have to pay for that kind of party with a 10-year hangover every 80 years, that seems like the best deal out there. Next boom, I'm getting an outdoor kitchen.

Stein is a columnist for the Times. E-mail Stein at jstein@latimescol-

12 TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2009 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian



Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.

.8**7**° **▼77°**





Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.

▼77° ▲86°



Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲86° ▼77°



Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

Yesterday's Satellite Image

▲86° ▼77°



Partly cloudy with

isolated showers.

▲86° ▼77°

170

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	▲ 84 ▼ 75
Palau	Cloudy	▲ 88 ▼ 77
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 88 ▼ 77
Chuuk	Mostly Sunny	▲ 88 ▼ 79
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 87 ▼ 75
Kosrae	Cloudy	▲ 89 ▼ 76
Maiuro	Showers	▲84 ▼ 76

Around The Globe

8				
	Auckland	Showers	▲ 72	▼ 64
	Beijing	Cloudy	▲ 63	▼37
	Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲ 73	▼ 64
	Honolulu	Cloudy	▲ 75	▼ 66
	London	Cloudy	▲ 57	₹44
	Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲ 74	▼ 54
	Manila	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 87	₹75
	Melbourne	Cloudy	▲ 68	▼51
	Miami	Showers	▲ 81	▼ 68
	New York	Cloudy	▲ 53	▼41
	Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲ 58	▼41
	Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲ 58	▼ 43
	Pusan	Sunny	▲ 62	₹46
	Rome	Sunny	▲ 61	▼ 40
	Salem	Rain	▲ 50	▼38
	San Francisco	Partly Sunny	▲ 63	▼ 48
	Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲ 59	▼43
	Tokyo	Partly Sunny	▲ 57	▼ 45

Tides Saipan Harbor 12:30 AM Today High Tide: 1.5 Feet 5:40 AM Today 1.1 Feet Low Tide: 10:43 AM Today High Tide: 1.7 Feet 6:28 PM Today Low Tide: 0.1 Feet

▲54 ▼40

Washington, DC Cloudy

SAIPAN MAJURO

PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2009

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A weakening shear line extending from 25N148E to 19N136E has patchy areas of clouds and rain up to 150 miles northwest of the boundary. A deep-level trough extends from 25N172E to 15N174E to 8N170E. Upper level divergence east of the trough axis is enhancing cloudiness and scattered showers from 5N to 20N east of 175E. The nearequatorial trough stretches east-southeast from south of Mindanao through 3N130E to EQ147E. Scattered showers are occurring from the equator to 4N between 135E and 150E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers south of Pohnpei within 60 miles of a line from 1N154E to 6N161E.

Sunrise/Sunset							
Today	6:24 AM	6:27 PM					
Wednesday	6:23 AM	6:28 PM					
Thursday	6:22 AM	6:28 PM					
Friday	6:21 AM	6:28 PM					
Saturday	6:21 AM	6:28 PM					

Moonrise/Moonset							
Today	11:58 PM	10:27 AM					
Wednesday		11:18 AM					
Thursday	12:50 AM	12:09 PM					
Friday	1:38 AM	1:01 PM					
Saturday	2:24 AM	1:53 PM					

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

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PICTURES ■ ISLAND SNAPSHOTS

- Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones,
- accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday. BUSINESS
- Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings are other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ TRÁVELOGUE

■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organiza tions, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the Saipan Tribune to publish the pictures. ■ Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of
- 800kb). ■ Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),
- the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months. ■ For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

■ Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

■ Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- For Travelogue, the Saipan Tribune reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 12, 2009

ARRIVALS

	n-Rota			Rota-S		
CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7	CO 9598	3:25am	4:00am
Saipa	n-Guam	1		Guam-	Saipar	1
CO9317	5:00am	5:50am	Daily	CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily	CO9598	2:30am	4:00am
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1,7 via Rota	CO9596	7:00am	7:50am
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	2,3,4,5,6	CO9600	10:20am	11:10am
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily	CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily	CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily	CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm
	•		•		•	·
Saipa	n-Narita	a	Narita	-Saipa	n	

DEPARTURES

NW 099 5:00am 7:35am Daily NW 078 8:20am 1:30pm 2,3,4,5,6,7

Saipan-Osaka

Guam-Osaka NW 79 4:45pm 7:35pm Daily

NW 078 8:20am 11:05am Daily

Saipan-Incheon OZ 604 2:10am 6:00am O7 604 2:40am 6:30am 2.3.4.5.6.7 OZ 119

OZ 606 3:20pm 7:00pm Daily

Saipan-Shanghai

Rota-Guam CO 9597 12:50pm 1:20pm 1,7

Guam-Palau CO 953 7:40pm 8:40pm 1,7 CO 893 5:50pm 6:50pm 3,5

CO 893 7:35pm 9:10pm 3,5 Guam-Manila

CO 893 5:50pm 9:10pm 3,5 via Koror CO 933 8:00pm 9:40pm Daily PR 111 6:00am 7:50am 1,2,4,6,7

Nagoya-Manila NW 71 8:40pm 11:55pm Daily

Incheon-Hongkong OZ 721 9:20am 12:00pm Daily OZ 723 7:45pm 10:35pm Daily OZ 7173 8:00pm 10:50pm 5,7

Narita-Manila 7:00pm 10:55pm Daily

CO 9316 2:30am 3:20am 1.2.3.4.7 CO9598 2:30am 4:00am 5.6 via Rota CO9596 7:00am 7:50am Daily CO9600 10:20am 11:10am Daily CO9602 2:00pm 2:50pm Daily CO9604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily CO9606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily Narita-Saipan NW 076 10:15am 2:40pm Daily NW 077 6:25pm 1:20am+1 2.3.4.5.6.7 NW 100 8:45pm 1:10am+1 Daily NW 075 4:55pm 7:30pm Daily **Guam-Narita** Narita-Guam NW 74 9:45am 2:20pm NW 73 4:10pm 7:00pm Daily Daily NW 81 3:55pm 6:55pm Daily NW 82 10:30am 3:10pm Daily Osaka-Saipan OZ 119 4:00am 6:40am 1.4.6 OZ 120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 3,5,7 Osaka-Guam NW 80 10:30am 3:00pm Daily Saipan-Nagoya Nagoya-Saipan NW 077 9:00pm 1:20am+1 Daily **Guam-Nagoya** Nagova-Guam NW 24 10:00am 2:30pm Daily NW 23 4:30pm 7:20pm Daily Incheon-Saipan OZ 605 9:00am 2:20pm Daily OZ 603 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 4:00am 11:25am 1,4,6 OZ 120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 3,5,7 via Osaka via Osaka OZ 603 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6 Saipan-Busan **Busan-Saipan** OZ 608 3:20am 6:50am 1,4,5,7 OZ 607 9:00pm 2:10am+1 3,4,6,7 Shanghai-Saipan FM 844 2:50am 5:40am 2.6 FM 843 7:15pm 1:50am+11,5 **Guam-Rota** CO 9598 2:30am 3:00am 5,6 Palau-Guam CO 954 2:30am 5:25am 1.2 CO 892 2:35am 5:30am 4,6 Manila-Palau Palau-Manila CO 892 10:10pm 1:50am+1 3,5 Manila-Guam CO 892 10:10pm 5:30am+1 3,5 via Koror CO 934 11:10pm 4:40am+1 Daily PR 110 10:10pm 4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7 Manila-Nagoya NW 72 6:30am 11:05am Daily

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana

NW 2

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

FRF 102

Airline	ETD E	TA Frequ	ency
Guam-R	ota		
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Sai	ipan		
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-I	Rota		
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Gu	am		
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-R	ota		
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Sai	ipan		
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-I	Rota		
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Gu	ıam		
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-1	Tinian		
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRF 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRF 111*	10:45am		Daily
			,

ETD **ETA** Frequency 1:00pm 1:10pm FRE 115 Daily FRE 117 2:30pm 2:40pm FRE 119 4:00pm 4:10pm Daily Daily FRE 121 4:40pm 4:50pm FRE 123 * 5:40pm 5:50pm Daily FRE 125 * 6:00pm 6:10pm Daily Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting

Hongkong-Incheon

Manila-Narita

OZ 724 12:30am 4:50am Daily

OZ 7183 12:45am 5:05am 1,4,6

7:45am 12:40pm Daily

OZ 722 1:30pm 5:45pm Daily

flights to Rota or Guam**

7:05am 7:15am

FRE 104 7:50am 8:00am Daily FRE 106** 8:20am 8:30am FRE 108** 9:00am 9:10am FRE 110 10:00am 10:10am Daily FRE 112 11:05am 11:15am Daily FRF 114 12:00pm 12:10pm Daily FRE 116 1:30pm 1:40pm Daily 3:00pm FRE 118 2:50pm FRE 120** 4:20pm 4:30pm Daily FRE 122** 5:00pm 5:10pm Daily FRE 124 6:05pm 6:15pm Daily FRE 126 6:20pm 6:30pm Daily

NMI CRIME **STOPPERS** Anonymous tips can now be submitted

through the following: ■ Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone

- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at

www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Workforce directors seek to create Pacific jobs corps

from the CNMI, Guam, American Samoa, and Palau recently concluded their meetings in Hawaii the week of Feb. 3-5, 2009.

Organized and facilitated by their granting agency, the US-DOL Employment and Training Administration Region 6 San Francisco Office. discussions and presentations were focused on ETA's Strategic Approach for talent development, program performance report revisions aligned with expenditures, Registered Apprenticeship Programs presented by Alfred Valles, State Director-Hawaii Pacific; Hawaii Job Corps presentations by Lauree Nakata, OAA Supervisor and Wendy Sakata, OA/CTS Manager; and on-site visit of the Waimanalo Campus, USDOL updates and presentation on Veterans Employment/Training Services in the Outer Pacific.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Pacific Workforce Directors from the CNMI, Guam, American Samoa, and Palau have their picture taken at the conclusion of their meetings in Hawaii the week of Feb. 3-5, 2009.

Regional partners from the risdiction were also present at College of Micronesia, Grilly Jack, Vocational Training Coordinator, and other federal officials in Hawaii from the Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs working closely with the Pacific ju-

the meeting.

The Pacific Workforce Directors also adopted at the conclusion of the meeting Resolution 09-001 with four actionable strategies to include specific recommendations for all collaborators, federal partners, local, state and regional organizations to consider:

■ To request that the Pacific Directors and the Micronesian Chief's Regional Workforce Development Council endorse the establishment of a Regional to establish a proposed plan of work to initialize the phases for a regional Job Corps within the next 3-6 months

- Pacific Directors meeting discussed options for providing technical assistance to develop a data action plan that evolves the Pacific Workforce Investment Streamlined Performance Reporting framework for data capacity development
- Develop a Regional Workforce Pre-Pipeline Development Initiative and consider the funding option for the economic stimulus opportunity for financing pre-proposal framework.
- Continue sharing and networking exemplary and programming successes through a structured Pacific jurisdiction report

The resolution was attested by Rosemary Cowan, Division Chief, USDOL ETA; John Ja-

Job Corps Working Committee cobs, Federal Projects Officer US-DOLETA; and by Steve Sanders, Legislative Director, DOI.

The resolution is in line with the following Pacific Workforce Investment Workgroup's seven action plan framework strategies recently adopted at the 10th Micronesian Chief Executive's Summit held on Nov. 18-19, 2008 in the FSM State of Pohnpei:

- Implement the RWDC Pilot Data Initiative
- Regional Entrepreneurship/ Enterprise Initiative
- Implement Pilot Workforce Readiness Credentialing System
- Develop a Regional Workforce
- Pipeline Development Initiative ■ Regional Communications RWDC/PWIW Plan
- Computer and Financial Literacy Initiative
- Succession Planning Initiative (replacement of key staff and mentoring of junior staff, Incumbent Worker Training) (PR)





Above, Dandan Elementary School administrators, teachers, and staff led by principal Jonas Barcinas pose with the visiting WASC accreditation team. Barcinas said the Tottot Family is proud of everyone's efforts-the administrators, teachers, faculty, staff, parents, students, PSS leadership and Staff, PTA leaders, government and Precinct I leaders, and the private sectors-for all their support throughout the vears.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Dandan Elementary School principal Jonas Barcinas, fourth from left, poses with members of the visiting WASC accreditation team. Barcinas said that DES will continue to provide the best quality education for its students and more opportunities for its high achievers, special and at-risk students.



GOODWILL GAME

Wushin Corp.'s basketball team members pose for a souvenir picture during one of their friendship games.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO







DPW ASSISTANCE

Above, the Dandan Elementary School expressed its thanks to Department of Public Works Secretary Diego Songsong and his staff for their assistance in helping DES fix its damaged road and rocky grounds on campus. The DPW team under the leadership of Dennis Davis also helped fix the pedestrian walkway.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

FAMILY DAY

Left, Te Kanahau Nui dancers entertain the crowd with their performance at the Family Fun Day celebration held at the Civic Center Basketball Court in Susupe on Saturday. The Division of Youth Services-sponsored event is part of the 2009 Parent Leadership Month activities, which also recognized 33 "exemplary parent leaders" on Saipan.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

PIC DONATION

Kurt Barnes, president of the Northern Marianas Athletics, accepts a donation from Angela Yamashita-Santos and Vicky Benavente, representing PIC Saipan. Also in the photo are NMA members, Elias and Doris Rangamar.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

14 TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2009 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Business

Bernanke: Recession could end in '09

WASHINGTON (AP)—America's recession "probably" will end this year if the government succeeds in bolstering the banking system, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke said Sunday in a rare television interview.

In carefully hedged remarks in a taped interview with CBS' "60 Minutes," Bernanke seemed to express a bit more optimism that this could be done.

Still, Bernanke stressed—as he did to Congress last month—that the prospects for the recession ending this year and a recovery taking root next year hinge on a difficult task: getting banks to lend more freely again and getting the financial markets to work more normally.

"We've seen some progress in the financial markets, absolutely," Bernanke said. "But until we get that stabilized and working normally, we're not going to see recovery.

"But we do have a plan. We're working on it. And, I do think that we will get it stabilized, and we'll see the recession coming to an end probably this year."

Even if the recession, which began in December 2007, ends this year, the unemployment rate will keep climbing past the current quarter-century high of 8.1 percent, Bernanke said.

A growing number of economists think the jobless rate will hit 10 percent by the end of this year.

Asked about the biggest potential dangers now, Bernanke suggested a lack of "political will" to solve the financial crisis



In this image taken from video and provided by CBS, "60 Minutes" correspondent Scott Pelley, left, interviews Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke in Dillon, S.C., Saturday, March 7, 2009.

He said, though, that the United States has averted the risk of plunging into a depression.

"I think we've gotten past that," he said

It's rare for a sitting Fed chief to grant an interview, whether for broadcast or print. Bernanke said he chose to do so because it's an "extraordinary time" for the country, and it gave him a chance to speak directly to the American public. (A transcript of the interview was provided in advance of the broadcast.)

Bernanke spoke at a time of rising public anger over financial bailouts using taxpayer money. Battling the worst financial crisis since the 1930s, the government has put hundreds of billions of those dollars at risk to prop up troubled institutions and stabilize the banking system.

Institutions that have been thrown lifelines include American International Group Inc., Citigroup Inc., Bank of America Corp., mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac and others.

Democrats and Republicans on Capitol Hill have questioned the effectiveness of the rescue efforts and have demanded more information about how taxpayers' money is being used.

Stores, food makers compete on retail prices

By EMILY FREDRIX and SARAH SKIDMORE
AP RETAIL WRITERS

Retailers, who begrudgingly went along when food makers pushed up prices to recoup record-high costs, are flexing newfound muscle and demanding price cuts to match the recent steep retreat in ingredient costs.

Food makers are resisting, saying the uncertain economy and volatile costs make price cuts unwise. But retailers aren't backing down.

Consumers—who responded to the higher prices by favoring grocers' inhouse products over national brands and by shopping more at discounters—may end up with fewer choices all around.

"We don't have to carry three brands," Costco Wholesale Corp.'s Chief Financial Officer Richard Galanti told investors earlier this month. "We can choose between brands that are going to be more aggressive, that help us help our members."

Costco has been lowering its prices, Galanti said, and is prepared to sacrifice profit margins and cut national brands that won't negotiate on pricing—if that's what it takes to drive sales.

"We are not the only ones out there pressuring manufacturers," he said.

Steven Burd, president of grocery chain Safeway Inc., recently told investors that it has gotten some vendors to roll back their prices. Like many retailers, it is finding its new strength in its in-house brands, including Safeway Select, O organics and Primo Taglio deli products.

"We're going to chew them up on corporate brands," Burd said of food makers that don't lower prices. "And we're just going to keep driving corporate brands."

White House says economy is sound despite 'mess'

WASHINGTON (AP)—The economy is fundamentally sound despite the temporary "mess" it's in, the White House said Sunday in the kind of upbeat assessment that Barack Obama had mocked as a presidential candidate.

Obama's Democratic allies pleaded for patience with an administration hitting the two-month mark this week, while Republicans said the White House's plans ignore small business and the immediate need to fix what ails the economy. After weeks projecting a dismal outlook on the economy, administration officials—led by the president himself in recent days—

swung their rhetoric toward optimism in what became Wall Street's best stretch since November.

During the fall campaign, Obama relentlessly criticized his Republican opponent, Sen. John McCain, for declaring, "The fundamentals of our economy are strong." Obama's team painted the veteran senator as out of touch and failing to grasp the challenges facing the country.

But on Sunday, that optimistic message came from economic adviser Christina Romer. When asked during an appearance on NBC's "Meet the Press" if the fundamentals of the economy were sound, she replied: "Of

course they are sound."

"The fundamentals are sound in the sense that the American workers are sound, we have a good capital stock, we have good technology," she said. "We know that—that temporarily we're in a mess, right? We've seen huge job loss, we've seen very large falls in GDP. So certainly in the short run we're in a—in a bad situation."

Just a week ago, White House Office of Management and Budget director Peter Orszag declared that "fundamentally, the economy is weak." Days later, Obama told reporters he was confident in the economy.

AlG says it spent some bailout money paying banks were sound, she replied: Or confident in the economy. from used busing gove.

NEW YORK (AP)—American International Group Inc. on Sunday detailed how it used some of its \$170 billion in federal bailout money, after the troubled insurer provoked outrage on Capitol Hill over its payment of tens of millions in executive bonuses.

Lawmakers on Capitol Hill have demanded that the identities of banks and other so-called counterparties that do business with bailed-out institutions be made public.

AIG said it used its \$85 billion emergency loan from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York in September and other rescue funds primarily to put up collateral for big foreign and domestic banks, including those which have received billions in government bailout

money themselves, and to help meet securities lending obligations to banks.

AIG said that between the time it received the loan on Sept. 18, 2008 and the end of the year, the company's securities lending arm used \$43.7 billion in public aid to meet obligations to banks, including \$7 billion paid out to Britain's Barclays PLC, \$6.4 billion to Germany's Deutsche Bank and \$4.5 billion to Bank of America.

Other banks receiving between \$1 billion and \$3 billion from AIG's securities lending unit include Citigroup Inc., Merrill Lynch, Switzerland's UBS AG and Morgan Stanley.

AIG said it also put up about \$22.4 billion in collateral for banks to meet obligations related to risky credit default

swaps—including \$4.1 billion put up for French bank Societe General, \$2.6 billion for Deutsche Bank, \$2.5 billion for Goldman Sachs, and \$1.8 billion for Merrill Lynch, among others.

And \$27.1 billion in payments made by Maiden Lane III, the unit AIG formed to buy securities underlying risky credit default swap contracts, included \$6.9 billion to Societe Generale, \$5.6 billion to Goldman Sachs and \$3.1 billion to Merrill Lynch. Municipalities in certain states, including California, Virginia and Hawaii, received a total of \$12.1 billion under guaranteed investment agreements. The company said it used the rest of its federal aid to fund its Maiden Lane business, repay debt and provide capital for some of its operations.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Obama to unveil plans to help small businesses

WASHINGTON (AP)—Amid misgivings over his spending blueprint, President Barack Obama has decided to provide billions of dollars in federal lending aid aimed at struggling small business owners. The broad package of measures to be announced Monday includes portions of the \$730 million from the stimulus plan that will be used to immediately reduce smallbusiness lending fees and increase the government guarantee on some Small Business Administration loans to 90 percent. The government also will take aggressive steps to boost bank liquidity with more than \$10 billion aimed at unfreezing the secondary credit market, according to officials briefed on the plan who demanded anonymity to avoid pre-empting the president's announcement. In the coming weeks, the SBA will unveil additional initiatives as part of the stimulus plan to help a small-business community that is seen as critical to staving off job losses and promoting economic growth, officials said.

OPEC to keep present output

VIENNA (AP)—OPEC tried on

Sunday to nudge oil prices up by urging its members to stop overproducing, but the cartel decided not to cut current output levels which could have driven prices sharply higher. Explaining the decision, OPEC Secretary-General Abdalla el-Badri spoke of his organization's concern over "ugly" global economic times that overrode the desire to achieve a quick fix by setting a lower overall output for the 12-nation producer's club. "We see people who are out of work, we see people in tents in the most rich countries," he told re porters. While OPEC's goal remains higher prices for its product, "the time is not right" for more radical measures, he said. The decision was sure to be welcomed by the U.S. and other major oil consuming countries, because setting lower output limits would could have jolted the already anemic world economy through a sudden price increase. It also reflected realization with the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries that any action more drastic than calling for quota compliance at a time of global economic crisis could ultimately backfire in real terms, by further depressing demand and driving down prices.

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Nation

Space shuttle Discovery blasts off with crew of 7

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)— Space shuttle Discovery and its crew of seven rocketed into orbit Sunday evening, setting off on a space station construction mission cut short by launch delays that dragged on for more than a month.

Discovery rose from its seaside pad just as the sun was setting, a spectacular sight for a space agency anxious to get the flight going. As the shuttle sped away like a brilliant star, part of the launch plume glowed pink, peach and golden. The shuttle was visible for more than four minutes.

A hydrogen leak prevented Discovery from lifting off Wednesday and, before that, hydrogen valves kept the shuttle grounded for weeks in February. Launch pad repairs took care of the leak, and the astronauts were able to board their spaceship and lift off.

"Well, you had a little bit of a wait but that will just make the payoff that much sweeter," launch director Mike Leinbach told the astronauts.

Commander Lee Archambault and his crew, which includes two former schoolteachers, should reach the international space station Tuesday. They're delivering one last set of solar wings for the space station and some critical equipment for a relatively new waterrecycling system.

No one was more eager to see Discovery take off than the three space station astronauts. Commander Mike Fincke was ecstatic when informed nothing was leaking at the pad.

"That is most excellent news," Fincke

Billy Graham grandson to lead famed Megachurch

By MATT SEDENSKY

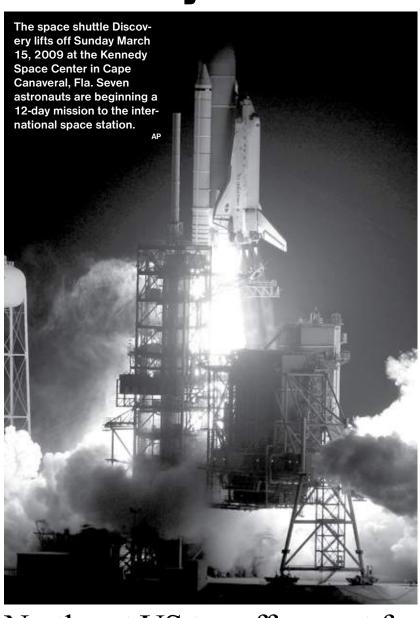
A widely-known megachurch founded by an architect of the religious right and seen as a national political force selected a grandson of Billy Graham on Sunday as its new leader.

The overwhelming vote by congregants at Coral Ridge Presbyterian in Fort Lauderdale to appoint the Rev. Tullian Tchividjian could represent a softening of the message spread by the Rev. D. James Kennedy, who was pastor at the church until his death in September 2007.

Kennedy's preaching against homosexuality and abortion made him one of evangelical Christianity's most divisive figures, and he worked to inject his faith in all aspects of public life and the political process, like allies the Rev. Pat Robertson and the Rev. Jerry Falwell.

Tchividiian insists he holds the same theological positions of Kennedy, but he cuts a far different image.

His hair is spiky, his beard sometimes scruffy, his skin tan. He offers a classic prodigal son story of youthful forays into drugs and sex, then his return to the fold. He has said he wants people to know what Christians are for as much as what they are against, and has rejected the idea that politics is the most important way to change the country.



told Mission Control. "That's exactly what's been on top of our minds."

During Wednesday's try, hydrogen gas spewed into the air from a vent line connected to Discovery's external fuel tank. NASA replaced the hookups, but could find nothing broken.

The system remained tight during the countdown, and the only problem was a pressure drop in a helium-purge system that workers quickly resolved.

The only other oddity was a bat on the back of Discovery's fuel tank Sunday afternoon. The small fruit bat posed no debris threat to the shuttle.

The four-day leak delay forced NASA to shorten Discovery's flight by a day and cut out a spacewalk. Because a Russian Soyuz rocket launch March 26, Discovery needs to be gone from the space station by the time that spacecraft flies. The Soyuz will carry up a fresh crew for the space station.

Discovery's mission will last 13 days and feature three spacewalks instead of four, the first of which will take place Thursday to install the new solar wings. The two wings will join six already in place and bring the orbiting outpost up to full power.

The canceled spacewalk chores will be tackled by the space station crew after Discovery leaves.

Discovery also will deliver a spare urine-into-drinking water converter to replace one that's broken up there, and a flusher and iodine solution to get rid of bacteria that's lurking in the water dispenser.

Northeast US to suffer most from future sea rise

WASHINGTON (AP)—The northeastern U.S. coast is likely to see the world's biggest sea level rise from man-made global warming, a new study predicts.

However much the oceans rise by the end of the century, add an extra 8 inches or so for New York, Boston and other spots along the coast from the mid-Atlantic to New England. That's because of predicted changes in ocean currents, according to a study based on computer models published online Sunday in the iournal Nature Geoscience.

An extra 8 inches—on top of a possible 2 or 3 feet of sea rise globally by 2100 is a big deal, especially when nor'easters and hurricanes hit, experts said.

"It's not just waterfront homes and wetlands that are at stake here," said is becoming a common theme.

Donald Boesch, president of the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science, who wasn't part of the study. "Those kind of rises in sea level when placed on top of the storm surges we see today, put in jeopardy lots of infrastructure, including the New York subway system."

For years, scientists have talked about rising sea levels due to global warming-both from warm water expanding and the melt of ice sheets in Greenland and West Antarctica. Predictions for the average worldwide sea rise keep changing along with the rate of ice melt. Recently, more scientists are saying the situation has worsened so that a 3-foot rise in sea level by 2100

But the oceans won't rise at the same rate everywhere, said study author Jianjun Yin of the Center for Ocean-Atmospheric Prediction Studies at Florida State University. It will be "greater and faster" for the Northeast, with Boston one of the worst hit among major cities, he said. So, if it's 3 feet, add another 8 inches for that region.

The explanation involves complicated ocean currents. Computer models forecast that as climate change continues, there will be a slowdown of the great ocean conveyor belt. That system moves heat energy in warm currents from the tropics to the North Atlantic and pushes the cooler, saltier water down, moving it farther south around Africa and into the Pacific.

Deputy who chased Ala. gunman must bury loved ones

joined the pursuit of a rampaging gunman now faces the grim task of burying two of his own family members.

Funerals were set Sunday in Geneva for deputy Joshua Myers' 31-year-old wife, Andrea, and their 18-month-old daughter, Corrine Gracy, two of the 10 people Michael McLendon killed during a 24-mile shooting spree before he turned the gun on himself last week.

The Myers' other daughter, 3-month old Ella, was injured by shrapnel but survived. She was released from Sacred Heart Children's Hospital in Pensacola, Fla., on Thursday after the shrapnel and a blood clot were removed from her leg.

Joe Newsome, an emergency medical technician, was sent to the porch in a quiet Samson neighborhood where An-

SAMSON, Ala. (AP)—A deputy who drea Myers, her daughter and three other eral times a week and were there when people were shot Tuesday. He said being called to an emergency and then finding out loved ones are among the victims is unthinkable for a first responder.

"I can't even imagine it, I cannot," he said. "I wished I could so I can be there for him more, but I can't imagine what it would be like."

Authorities said McLendon, 28, was apparently depressed over his failures in life.

He started his spree by killing his mother, Lisa McLendon, 52, at the home they shared near the isolated community of Kinston. Then he went to the home of his uncle, James Alford White, 55, who lived across the street from the Myers' sunny yellow home. Andrea Myers and her children visited the Whites sevMcLendon drove up and opened fire.

White was also killed, as were his daughter, Tracy Michelle Wise, 34, and her son, Dean James Wise, 15. McLendon gunned down his grandmother, Virginia E. White, 74, on an adjacent porch.

Afterward, he sprayed bullets from his car window as he drove through town, killing James Irvin Starling, 24, as he walked along a street and Sonya Smith, 42, as she walked out of a gas station.

Bruce Wilson Maloy, 51, was shot and killed when he tried to stop the rampage by using his pickup truck to ram McLendon's car. McLendon then drove to a Geneva metals plant where he worked several years ago. He ran into the business and killed himself after a gunfight with police.

ACROSS THE NATION

Man kills 4 at gathering in Miami, then kills self

MIAMI (AP)—A man barged into a birthday party early Sunday, shot his estranged wife and three other people to death, then went home, set his truck and house on fire and killed himself, police said. Witnesses described a chaotic scene that started when the man showed up uninvited at the party and told about a dozen people there that he blamed them for his wife leaving him, said homicide detective Ervens Ford. Then he opened fire. Some took cover while others, including a pregnant woman, ran into the street. 'It was chaotic," Ford said. "I can't imagine what it was like in there." The man also killed his 51-year-old wife's mother and daughter, along with her daughter's boyfriend, whose birthday they were celebrating, Ford said. Police did not release the victims' names because other family members had not been notified. They said the man and his wife were married about four years and they weren't sure when she left him.

Possible therapy takes bite out of peanut allergy

WASHINGTON (AP)—Scientists have the first evidence that life-threatening peanut allergies may be cured one day. A few kids now are allergyfree thanks to a scary treatment—tiny amounts of the very food that endangered them. Don't try this at home. Doctors monitored the youngsters closely in case they needed rescue, and there's no way to dice a peanut as small as the treatment doses required. But over several years, the children's bodies learned to tolerate peanuts. Immune-system tests show no sign of remaining allergy in five youngsters, and others can withstand amounts that once would have left them wheezing or worse, scientists reported Sunday. Are the five cured? Doctors at Duke University Medical Center and Arkansas Children's Hospital must track them years longer to be sure. "We're optimistic that they have lost their peanut allergy," said the lead researcher, Dr. Wesley Burks, Duke's allergy chief. "We've not seen this before medically. We'll have to see what happens to them."

Passenger on Frankfurtto-Detroit flight had TB

ROMULUS, Mich. (AP)—The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says a passenger on a Northwest Airlines flight from Frankfurt to Detroit has been diagnosed with tuberculosis. Northwest says the passenger was on Tuesday's Flight 51 to Detroit Metropolitan Airport in Romulus. CDC spokeswoman Shelly Diaz tells The Associated Press the risk is low that other passengers might contract tuberculosis. She said Sunday that health officials were seeking to contact 17 passengers seated near the sick passenger so they can be tested for tuberculosis as a "cautionary move." Diaz says details about the sick passenger weren't being released. WDIV-TV reported the tuberculosis case Sunday morning. Northwest Airlines was acquired last year by Atlantabased Delta Air Lines Inc.

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Asia

Pakistan to reinstate top judge, defusing crisis

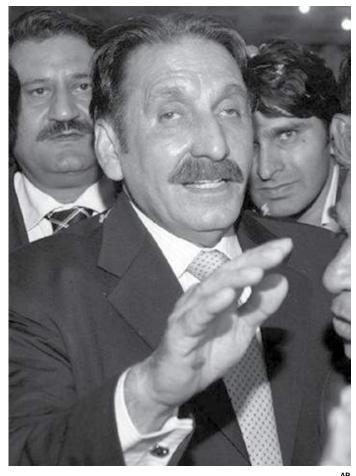
ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistan's government relented in a major confrontation with the main opposition leader Monday, agreeing to reinstate a fired Supreme Court chief justice whose fate had sparked street battles and raised fears of political instability in a country already wracked by Islamist violence.

A dawn announcement by the prime minister that Iftikhar Mohammed Chaudhry would be sworn back in on March 21 capped a night of high drama and led activist lawyers to drop plans to march on the capital and stage a sit-in at Parliament later in the day.

The U.S. called the decision "statesmanlike," but the move also was a significant concession that could weaken U.S.-allied President Asif Ali Zardari, who had long refused to restore the independent-minded Chaudhry. Already, attempts to quell the protest movement—through arrests and bans on rallies—have triggered cracks in the ruling party.

Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani's announcement also promised the restoration of a handful of other judges who had remained off the bench since former President Pervez Musharraf sacked them in 2007. He further ordered the release of activists arrested over the past week and appealed for political reconciliation in Pakistan, a nuclear-armed nation which also faces an economic crisis.

The moves prompted scenes



In this March 31, 2008 file photo, Pakistan's deposed chief justice Iftikhar Mohammad Chaudhry arrives to address the High Court Bar Association in his hometown of Quetta in Pakistan.

of jubilation outside Chaudhry's Islamabad home and other parts of the country.

"No country can progress without an independent judiciary and the government—by restoring the chief justice and other judges—has also realized it, and we think it is a big success," lawyer leader Ali Ahmad Kurd said.

The concession came as thousands of protesters led by Nawaz Sharif, the head of the largest opposition party, were traveling to Islamabad to join the planned sit-in. Sharif joined the convoy after ignoring a house arrest order in his hometown of Lahore in Punjab province, where his supporters fought police.

'Untouchable' politician to challenge Indian polls

NEW DELHI (AP)—A leading "untouchable" politician vowed Sunday to take her party national in India's upcoming elections and challenge the country's two establishment parties.

Mayawati, who goes by one name, has made clear her ambition to be India's next prime minister. Her Bahujan Samaj Party has emerged as a major force in Indian politics, winning control of Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous state.

Mayawati is a Dalit, or "untouchable," who are the social

outcasts at the bottom of India's complex caste system.

While caste discrimination has been outlawed for more than a half century, and a quota system was established with the aim of giving Dalits a fair share of government jobs and places in schools, most remain almost destitute, kept down by ancient prejudice and caste-based politics.

Addressing a news conference, Mayawati said her party will contest the elections in April and May "all alone, in all the states."

While the party will run on its own, Mayawati said she was open to forming a coalition after the elections to ensure the ruling Congress party and the Hindu nationalist opposition Bharatiya Janata Party are kept out of power.

Mayawati rose to power in Uttar Pradesh in 2007, forming a powerful alliance of Dalits and high-caste Hindu Brahmins, to force out Mulayam Singh Yadav, the state's former chief minister, whose own support was rooted among middle-caste farmers.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Bomb kills 4 US soldiers in Afghanistan's east

KABUL (AP)—A roadside bomb killed four American soldiers in eastern Afghanistan on Sunday—new evidence of rising violence in a region where clashes and attacks in the first two months of 2009 more than doubled from the same period a year ago. The spike in violence along the border is an early indication that roadside bombs and other ambushes are likely to surge as thousands of new U.S. forces arrive in Afghanistan this year. Brig. Gen. Richard Blanchette, a spokesman for the NATO-led force here, confirmed that a roadside bomb killed four U.S. troops in eastern Afghanistan. A U.S. statement indicated the troops were based in Jalalabad. A suicide bomber, meanwhile, attacked a NATO convoy in Kabul on Sunday but instead killed two passers-by—among 18 people killed Sunday, officials said.

Maldives president vows carbon neutral nation

LONDON (AP)—The president of the Maldives says the Indian Ocean nation will become the world's first carbon-neutral country within a decade. Writing in Sunday's edition of Britain's Observer newspaper, President Mohamed Nasheed said his country of low-lying tropical islands faced "a real threat to our survival" from rising sea levels produced by global warming. Climate researchers say that many of the Maldives' 1,200 islands could disappear if the seas continue to rise. Much of the archipelago is only 5 feet (1.5 meters) above sea level. Scientists meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark last week warned that climate change was accelerating faster than predicted. They said melting glaciers and ice sheets could help push the sea level up by as much as 39 inches (1 meter) by the end of the century. Nasheed said his country would renounce oil and get all its energy from renewable sources such as wind and solar power.

World

Chavez: Russia jets welcome, but no Venezuela base

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—President Hugo Chavez said Sunday that Russian bombers would be welcome in Venezuela, but the socialist leader denied that his country would offer Moscow its territory for a

military base.

Chavez—a fierce critic of Washington with close ties to Russia and Cuba—said his government did not raise the possibility, as Russian media had reported.

"It's not like that," the president said, responding to a report by Interfax news agency quoting the chief of staff of Russia's long range aviation, Maj. Gen. Anatoly Zhikharev, as saying some strategic bombers could be based on an island offered by Venezuela.

Zhikharev reportedly said Saturday that Chavez had offered "a whole island with an airdrome, which we can use as a temporary base for strategic bombers."

Speaking during his weekly television and radio program, Chavez said he told Russian President Dmitry Medvedey

that his

nation's

bombers

would be

allowed

in Ven-

ezuela

land



Chavez

sary, but no such plans have been made.

Venezuela hosted two Russian Tu-160 bombers in September for training flights and joined Russian warships two months later for naval exercises in the Caribbean.

"I told President Medvedev that any time Russia's strategic

aviation needs to make a stop in Venezuela as part of its strategic plans, Venezuela is available," he said.

Interfax also reported that Zhikharev said Russian bombers could be based in communist-led Cuba, but a Kremlin official said Zhikharev had been speaking hypothetically.

Kremlin official Alexei Pavlov responded to the report on Saturday, saying that "the military is speaking about technical possibilities, that's all."

"If there will be a development of the situation, then we can comment," Pavlov said.

Venezuela and Cuba have close political and energy relations with Russia, which has been working to reassert itself as a military force.

Russia resumed long-range bomber patrols in 2007 after a 15-year hiatus.

Sinn Fein, IRA dissidents vie for Catholic support

LURGAN, Northern Ireland (AP)—Graffiti on the Catholic side of town condemn Sinn Fein politicians as British stooges. Alongside black-stenciled images of masked gunmen, slogans proclaim allegiance to IRA dissidents who fatally shot a policeman a few miles away.

On Saturday, teenage boys here blocked roads and threw bricks and Molotov cocktails at police who arrested a local man wanted for the killing of two off-duty British soldiers.

Sinn Fein has persuaded most of Northern Ireland's Irish Catholics to accept peace through compromise. But the Irish nationalist party still struggles for the loyalty of job-hungry, lawless Catholic neighborhoods like Kilwilkie, on the wrong side of the tracks in this mostly Protestant town.

If Sinn Fein cannot win over such pockets of bitterness and alienation, the dissidents could grow in numbers and strength—and eventually mount far deadlier attacks than this month's shootings of soldiers and a policeman. Analysts say power-sharing—the central achievement of Northern Ireland's 1998 peace deal—could not survive a sustained campaign of paramilitary bloodshed.

Sinn Fein pleasantly surprised its Protestant partners in government this month by calling on its backers to help police track down and imprison the gunmen. But the move means Sinn Fein has finally put itself on a collision course with dangerous die-hards in its own working-class base—people who still inspire a potent mixture of fear and reverence.

"You wouldn't want to be seen by certain neighbors calling the police, let's leave it at that," said Marie, a Catholic mother of four pushing her two youngest children in a stroller uphill from Kilwilkie, past the railway line, to the Protestant center of Lurgan.

Like several other residents interviewed before and after Saturday's riots, Marie would talk only if her last name and other details of her identity were concealed.

WORLD BRIEFS

Iraq's al-Maliki: US will stay in insecure areas

BAGHDAD (AP)—U.S. troops will not be removed from areas of Iraq that are not completely secure or where there is a high probability that attacks could resume after the Americans leave, Iraq's prime minister said Sunday. Nouri al-Maliki said in an interview with The Associated Press that he had told President Barack Obama and other top U.S. officials that any withdrawals "must be done with our approval" and in coordination with the Iraqi government. "I do not want any withdrawais except in areas considered 100 percent secure and under control," al-Maliki said during his flight from Australia to Baghdad at the end of a five-day visit. "Any area where there is a likelihood of a resumption of attacks, withdrawals from there will be postponed," he said.

Netanyahu, Israeli party sign coalition gov't deal

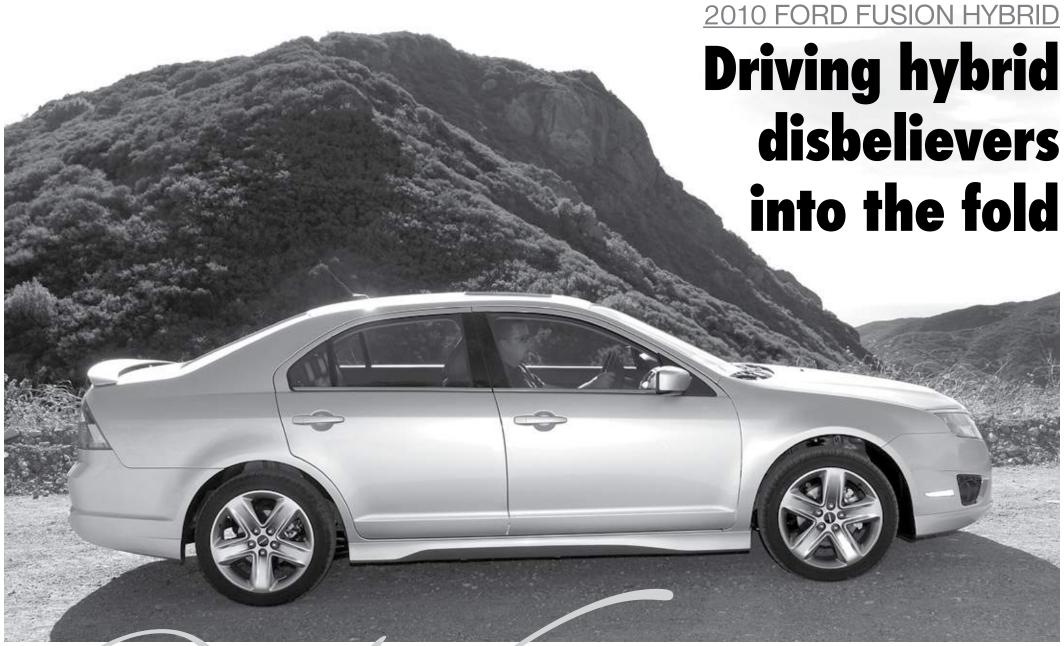
JERUSALEM (AP)—Israeli Prime Ministerdesignate Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud Party has signed a coalition agreement with the Yisrael Beitenu faction, a deal that would make the rightwing party's leader the foreign minister in a new government, Israeli media reported Monday. The agreement is the first signed by Netanyahu on his way toward setting up a coalition of hawkish and Orthodox Jewish parties. Both Likud and Yisrael Beitenu left the door open for Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni's centrist Kadima Party to join, but that appeared unlikely. Yisrael Beitenu leader Avigdor Lieberman has been accused of being a racist demagogue because of his plan to require loyalty oaths from Israel's Arab citizens. His designation as foreign minister is seen as potentially harmful to Israel's international ties. The new Israeli government taking shape appears likely to take a much harder line on Palestinian and Arab issues than the current one headed by Prime Minister Ehud Olmert.

Ex-Salvadoran rebels seek power through ballot box

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador (AP)—El Salvador's former guerrillas, behind the bespectacled, moderate face of a former TV journalist. could take power for the first time since the nation's civil war in elections Sunday that threaten to uproot two decades of conservative rule. Mauricio Funes, plucked from outside the ranks of the rebel group-turned-political party Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, would become the latest in a wave of leftist leaders to take power in Latin America at a time of uncertainty over how President Barack Obama will approach the region. Funes, 49, promises to crack down on big businesses which he says exploit government complacency to evade taxes. He hopes to capitalize on discontent with two decades of conservative Arena party rule that have brought economic growth but done little to redress social inequalities.

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Overdrive



BY WARREN BROWN THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—The trouble with Capitol Hill is hypocrisy. That might not be surprising to cynics who believe politicians are, by definition, hypocrites. But it becomes more than a little disturbing when those politicians base their policy objectives on their hypocrisy.

Let's be clear. For the past year, as the national economy began to unwind, particularly that part of it represented by the automobile industry, we heard lots of talk from Capitol Hill about Detroit's need to "restructure," Detroit's need to make cars, and fewer trucks, that "Americans want to buy."

It was bunk fueled by bias. The selfevident portion of that bunk is that 48 percent of the new cars and trucks sold in this country are built by General Motors, Ford and Chrysler. That's pretty darned good defense of a home market that is wide open to car manufacturers from all over the world, including foreign manufacturers ably assisted by hundreds of millions of dollars in tax breaks from states seeking new factories.

The bias is more subtle. Troll the garages and parking lots of Capitol Hill. Lots of Acura, Audi, BMW, Honda, Mercedes-Benz and Toyota cars are in those places. After a while, it becomes clear that it's not so much that Detroit does not make cars Americans want to buy. It's that many of the people who were sent to Washington to represent America are no longer interested in taking what America is making.

Their rejection of homemade goods has more to do with their illusion of status and sophistication than it does with any inherent inferiority in American cars and trucks. What they need is a motorized attitude changer. I can suggest many with GM, Ford and, on the truck side, Chrysler badges. But in this space, at this time, I offer one—the 2010 Ford Fusion Hybrid family sedan.

We did not want to return the Fusion Hybrid at the end of the test week, during which we tried all sorts of things to make it run out of gas.

Mary Anne, my wife, drove it all over suburban Virginia, deliberately allowing it to idle, only to discover that she was saving fuel by recharging the Fusion Hybrid's nickel-metal hydride batteries through regenerative braking. Mary Anne fell in love with this car, but I wrested it from her for a long, two-day drive around Virginia. I'm not exactly an enthusiastic fan of hybrids. I think too many of them are too gimmicky, not efficient enough to justify their generally higher purchase costs, and too laden with unanswered questions-such as end-life battery disposal and assembly line-to-grave energy costs.

I still have my doubts. But after a week in the oh-so-smooth, technologically transparent Fusion Hybrid, I've not only become more of a believer in hybrids, but I've also moved closer than

NUTS & BOLTS

BY WARREN BROWN THE WASHINGTON POST

COMPLAINTS

We have a bias toward leather seating surfaces. But leather is an ex-

pensive option, which, apparently, is why Ford chose cheaper cloth seating surfaces in a hybrid sedan that comes with a built-in premium.

RIDE, ACCELERATION **AND HANDLING**

It beats all midsize hybrid cars in all three categories. Compare with Chevrolet Malibu Hybrid, Saturn Aura Hybrid and Toyota Camry Hybrid.

HEAD-TURNING QUOTIENT

Sharp, high-end, attractive.

BODY STYLE/LAYOUT

The Ford Fusion Hybrid is a frontwheel-drive, midsize family sedan powered by a 2.5-liter, inline fourcylinder gasoline engine working in tandem with an electric motor driven by a nickel-metal hydride battery. The car can reach a speed of 47 miles per hour on battery power only. The gasoline engine takes over at higher speeds and shuts itself off at idle and slow speeds. Re-captured heat from

ever to buying a hybrid automobile.

The basics are all good. Exterior design, accented by an edgily sculpted, three-bar grille, is attractive. Overall fit and finish and interior ergonomicsthe way things are designed for ease braking helps recharge the battery.

CAPACITIES

There are seats for five people. Maximum luggage capacity is 12 cubic feet. The fuel tank holds 17 gallons of recommended regular unleaded gasoline.

MILEAGE

City mileage is generally better than highway mileage in current-generation gas-electric hybrids. We got 40 miles per gallon in the city and 36 mpg on the highway.

SAFETY

Standard equipment includes front and rear solid disc brakes with antilock control; electronic stability and traction control; side and rear air bags.

PRICING

Base price on the 2010 Ford Fusion Hybrid is \$27,270. Dealer's invoice price on that model is \$24,988. Price as tested is \$27,995, including a \$725 destination charge. Dealer's price as tested is \$25,713. Prices sourced from Ford, Edmunds.com and Cars.com, an affiliate of The Washington Post.

PURSE-STRINGS NOTE

The Ford Fusion Hybrid gets a solid "buy" here.

of reach and sight-are excellent. And the Fusion is an information lover's delight, much more so than any hybrid I've driven.

There is what Ford calls a "smart gauge" instrument cluster. It has color The exterior design of the 2010 Ford Fusion Hybrid, accented by an edgily sculpted grille, is attractive, and its overall fit and finish are excellent.

THE WASHINGTON POST

liquid-crystal display screens on either side of the car's speedometer. The driver can select from among four information packages, most of which monitor gas-electric power flows and exchanges, and one of which renders your green driving score via an on-screen, electronic growth of green leaves.

But the bottom line is that Ford's claim that the Fusion Hybrid offers the best fuel economy of any mid-size family sedan on the market has something of real-world truth, which can be a really good thing for city-suburban commuters, who waste much time and fuel idling in traffic jams.

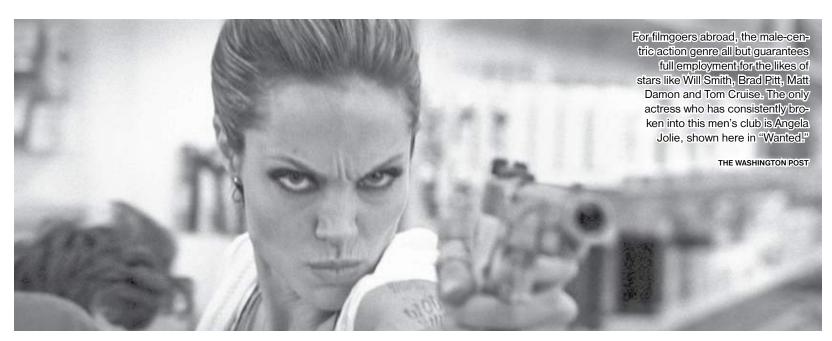
Mary Anne and I averaged 40 miles per gallon in city traffic, one mile less than the Environmental Protection Agency's city rating of 41 miles per gallon for the Fusion Hybrid. We got 36 miles per gallon on the highway, where the Fusion Hybrid's 2.5-liter, inline four-cylinder gasoline engine, running on regular unleaded, does most of the work.

I really like this car, mostly because it feels and looks like a nice, high-quality, midsize family sedan instead of a science project.

But I mostly like it because it proves what I've been writing and saying for years. Detroit makes good cars. The only people who don't know that are people, who for reasons both valid and ill-founded, long ago abandoned Detroit. They need to come back and take another look. Detroit has changed. For proof, take a drive in the 2010 Ford Fusion Hybrid.

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Life & Style



Hollywood's men are mostly where the action is

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Want to be a big deal in the movie industry? There's one sure-fire way to

increase your chances: Be born male.

According to 157 film-industry professionals surveyed recently by Forbes magazine, actors are far more reliable than actresses when it comes to the one measure Hollywood values most: money. The publication set out to determine the most "bankable" actors and actresses in Hollywoodthat is, who's perceived to be best at attracting money to a project, who sells tickets once a picture is released, and who keeps the cash rolling in afterward from DVDs and the like. The magazine asked film people to rank some 1,400 actors and actresses on their moneymaking power.

The result: Men vastly outnumbered and outranked women by a wide margin. Only four actresses (Angelina Jolie, tied for No. 2; Julia Roberts, No. 11; Meryl Streep, No. 16; and Nicole Kidman, No. 22) ranked among the 30 most bankable. Just 28 women were among the top 100, and only 185 were in the top 500 (for the record, the Hollywood suits rated Will Smith as the most bankable of all).

All told, male stars were almost twice as likely to be considered bankable by film-industry types as their female counterparts.

It's tempting to dismiss this result as another example of Hollywood sexism. That is, since men run the movie business, it's no surprise that movies reflect the tastes and preferences of men. But it's not really that simple. Since Hollywood is also a business that is acutely sensitive to the whims and shifting desires of its customers, sexism couldn't pay without the audiences' complicity.

As it happens, the survey says a few things about the movie business but a lot more about moviegoers.

The first thing to consider is how Hollywood has changed since the days when Bette Davis, Joan Crawford and Shirley Temple were the most popular stars on the studio lot. Back then, says Patricia Aufderheide, a communications professor at American University who studies film, the studios cranked out lots of inexpensive movies primarily for domestic consumption, featuring stables of contract players. But since the 1960s and '70s, the studios have evolved into financiers and marketers of films that earn most of their money abroad. This has radically altered the kinds of movies that get made, and who stars in them, she says.

Because the most reliable cross-

border films are big-budget action movies—car chases, shoot-'em-ups and explosions speak pretty much the same language in Dubai as in Dubuque—men have a built-in advantage for these heroic leading roles, she points out. Thus, the malecentric action genre all but guarantees full employment for the likes of stars like Smith, Brad Pitt, Matt Damon and Tom Cruise.

The only actress who has consistently broken into this men's club is Jolie, points out Anne Thompson, a film blogger and the former editor of the movie magazine Premiere. In hit movies like "Lara Croft: Tomb Raider," "Mr. & Mrs. Smith" and the recent "Wanted," audiences have accepted Jolie as a gun-toting, butt-kicking spitfire—a track record no other actress in history can claim, she says.

A few women—Sigourney Weaver in the "Alien" films, for example have occasionally pulled this off, but only when the plots call for them to protect a child. Jolie, on the other hand, isn't dependent on this story device. "I don't think the culture was ready for this before," Thompson says of Jolie's action-heroine status. "It wasn't able to accept women with guns."

But this raises a question: Since not every film is an action pic, wouldn't women be as important, as "bankable," as men in other kinds of movies, such as romantic comedies? Don't women, more so than men, flock to movies like "Sex and the City" and "Mamma Mia!"?

Yes, but the market for these films is far more limited than comic-book blockbusters like "The Dark Knight" and "Iron Man." Romantic comedies tend not to open with the same boxoffice numbers as the latest action, sci-fi or horror movie, and don't play as well outside the U.S. market. Romantic comedies also carry a dreaded label: "chick flick."

This is where the sociology and gender psychology of moviegoing comes into play. A couple choosing which movie to see on a Friday or Saturday night play a subtle game of dominance and submission, says Ann Kaplan, director of the Humanities Institute at Stony Brook University in New York and co-editor of "Feminism and Film." More often than not, she says, the woman gives in and the guy gets to see what he wants.

"Women will go where the males want to go," Kaplan says. "If he says, 'I want to go to 'I Am Legend,' she's not going to say, 'I won't.' After all the strides of the women's movement, after all the efforts to bring women to parity with men, it's still a question of power and pleasing your male."

BEST SELLERS

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Nonfiction

Outliers, by Malcolm Gladwell (Little, Brown: \$27.99). An exploration of the background of high achievers.

Act Like a Lady, Think Like a Man, by Steve Harvey (Amistad: \$23.99). The talk-show host lets women inside the mind-set of a man.

The Yankee Years, by Joe Torre (Doubleday: \$26.95). Behind the scenes of what it really took to try to keep the Yankees on top of the baseball world.

The Inaugural Address 2009, by Barack Obama (Penguin: \$12). A keepsake edition commemorating the inauguration of the 44th president with the words of Abraham Lincoln and Ralph Waldo Emerson.

Obama: The Historic Journey, by The New York Times staff (Callaway: \$40). The road to the White House.

The Last Lecture, by Randy Pausch with Jeffrey Zaslow (Hyperion: \$21.95).A professor's terminal cancer inspires a call to seize life's moments.

The Secret, by Rhonda Byrne (Beyond Words: \$23.95). Life's secrets, distilled.

Dewey, by Vicki Myron with Bret Witter (Grand Central: \$19.99). The impact that a cat named Dewey Readmore Books had on an Iowa library and its patrons.

How We Decide, by Jonah Lehrer (Houghton Mifflin: \$25). Insight and understanding of human decision-making.

Angels & Ages, by Adam Gopnik (Knopf: \$24.95). A search for the men behind the myths, Lincoln and Darwin, both born on the same day.

Fiction

Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Last Straw, by Jeff Kinney (Amulet: \$12.95). Greg's dad enlists him in organized sports to toughen him up.

Breaking Dawn, by Stephenie Meyer (Little, Brown: \$22.99). The final book in the Twilight saga finds Bella choosing immortality.

Eclipse, by Stephenie Meyer (Little, Brown: \$19.99). Bella must choose between her lover and a friend, between life and death.

The Associate, by John Grisham (Doubleday: \$27.95). A dark secret forces a law school graduate to work for a corrupt law firm, putting his life in danger.

Promises in Death, by J.D. Robb (Putnam: \$26.95). A cop killer is hunted down in New York City in 2060.

The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society, by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows (Dial Press: \$22). A writer corresponds with islanders after German occupation.

Drood, by Dan Simmons (Little, Brown: \$26.95). An imagining of Charles Dickens' last years and his obsession with the dark side of London.

Fool, by Christopher Moore (William Morrow: \$26.99). King Lear's jester and an apprentice set out to save the kingdom in this comedy of errors.

The Renegades, by T. Jefferson Parker (Dutton: \$26.95). A sheriff sets out to find the gunman who shot his new partner.

Little Bee, by Chris Cleave (Simon & Schuster: \$24). The lives of a British journalist couple and a Nigerian teenager collide.

Brits questioned outlaw Hood not so

LONDON (AP)—An academic says he's found evidence that Britain's legendary outlaw Robin Hood wasn't as popular as folklore suggests.

Julian Luxford says a note discovered in the margins of an ancient history book contains rare criticism of the supposedly benevolent bandit.

According to legend, Robin Hood roamed 13th-century Britain from a base in central England's Sherwood Forest, plundering from the rich to give to the poor.

But Luxford, an art history lecturer at Scotland's University of St. Andrews, says a 23-word inscription in the margins of a history book, written in Latin by a medieval monk around 1460, casts the outlaw as a persistent thief.

"Around this time, according to popular opinion, a certain outlaw named Robin Hood, with his accomplices, infested Sherwood and other law-abiding areas of England with continuous robberies," the note read when translated into English, Luxford said.

Luxford said he found the reference while searching through the library of England's prestigious Eton College, which was founded in 1440 by King Henry VI.

"I saw his name, it leapt out at me," Luxford, 41, said Saturday. "I knew enough about the relative dearth of references to him from the medieval period to know this might be important."

Luxford, an expert in medieval manuscripts, said the find "contains a uniquely negative assessment of the outlaw, and provides rare evidence for monastic attitudes towards him."

He said it was not entirely surprising that monks, as part of England's clerical establishment, harbored negative feelings about the bandit.

Luxford said Robin Hood stories from the Middle Ages paint him as an ally of "good knights and yeomensalt-of-the-earth type people. But they help settle debates in England about are not so positive about his relationship with the clergy."

in the margin of the "Polychronicon," a popular history book that dates from the late 1340s—is the earliest known reference to the outlaw from an English source. He said it supports arguments that the historical Robin Hood lived in the 13th century, even though most popular modern versions of the story set him in the late-12th century reign of King Richard I.

The first mentions of Robin Hood, depicted in Hollywood movies by both Kevin Costner and Errol Flynn, are commonly believed to have been in late 13th-century ballads. Some academics claim the stories refer to several different medieval outlaws, while others believe the tales are pure fantasy.

Luxford said his discovery may

exactly where Robin Hood lived.

The northern England county of Luxford said the note—uncovered Yorkshire has long claimed he was based there, rather than neighboring Nottinghamshire—even naming a local transport hub Robin Hood Airport in tribute.

> But folklore has most commonly placed Hood in Sherwood Forestwhere he is reputed to hidden from his nemesis, the Sheriff of Nottingham. The forest once spanned 100,000 acres (40,500 hectares) across Nottinghamshire, but has shrunk in modern time to about 450 acres (180 hectares).

"This is another piece of evidence from the Middle Ages showing he was from Sherwood," Luxford said. "It strengthens that connection."

Luxford said he planned to publish more details of the find in the Journal of Medieval History.

Actor Ron Silver dies in NYC at age 62 of cancer



In this Aug. 30, 2004 file photo, actor Ron Silver speaks at the evening session of the first day of the Republican National Convention in New York.

By DAVID GERMAIN

AP MOVIE WRITER

Actor Ron Silver, who won a Tony Award as a takeno-prisoners Hollywood producer in David Mamet's "Speed-the-Plow" and did a political about-face from loyal Democrat to Republican activist after the Sept. 11 attacks, died Sunday at the age of 62. "Ron Silver died peacefully in his sleep with his family around him early Sunday morning" in New York City, said Robin Bronk, executive director of the Creative Coalition, which Silver helped found. "He had been fighting esophageal cancer for two years."

Silver, an Emmy nominee for a recurring role as a slick strategist for liberal President Jed Bartlet on "The West Wing," had a long history of balancing acting with left-leaning social and political causes.

But after the 2001 terrorist attacks, longtime Democrat Silver turned heads in Hollywood with outspoken support of President George W. Bush over the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Silver spoke at the 2004 Republican National Convention, began referring to himself as a "9/11 Republican" and reregistered as an independent.

In an interview with The Associated Press a month later, Silver said his support for the war on terror was costing him work in liberal-minded Hollywood.

"It's affected me very badly. I can't point to a person or a job I've lost, but this community is not very pluralistic," Silver told the AP. "I haven't worked for 10 months."

His switch to a more conservative image threatened to overshadow an esteemed career on stage, television and film, along with his long history of activism, which included co-founding the nonpartisan Creative Coalition, an advocacy group for entertainers.

"He was a talented actor, a scholar and a great believer in participatory democracy," Bronk said Sunday evening. "He was an activist who became a great artist and his contributions will never be forgotten."

His big-screen credits included "Ali," "Reversal of Fortune," "Enemies: A Love Story," "Silkwood" and "Semi-Tough."

Besides "The West Wing," Silver was a regular or had recurring roles on such TV shows as "Veronica's Closet," "Chicago Hope" and "Wiseguy." He directed and costarred in the 1993 TV movie "Lifepod," a science-fiction update of Al-

fred Hitchcock's "Lifeboat."

Silver's Tony for "Speed-the-Plow" came in 1988, a year after he earned his first Emmy nomination, for the murder thriller "Billionaire Boys Club."

Silver still found work despite his conservative shift, appearing in episodes of "Law & Order" and "Crossing Jordan" and such movies as "Find Me Guilty" and the Ten Commandments comedy "The Ten."

He continued his recurring role on "The West Wing," joking that he faced some taunting over his views from co-workers on the show which took place in a fiercely liberal White House administration.

"Often when I walked onto the set of 'The West Wing' some of my colleagues would greet me with a chanting of 'Ron, Ron, the neo-con.' It was all done in fun but it had an edge," Silver wrote in a Nov. 15, 2007, entry of his

blog on the Pajamas Media Web site.

Silver's on-screen work rankled liberals, too. He narrated 2004's "Fahrenhype 9/11," a deconstruction of Michael Moore's Bush-bashing hit documentary "Fahrenheit 9/11."

"Michael Moore and that faction of the party was one of the factors that did not let me support the Democratic nominee this year," Silver told the AP in 2004. "He is a charlatan in a clown suit."

Born July 2, 1946, in New York City, he was the son of Irving and May Silver. His father worked in New York's garment industry and his mother was a teacher.

Earning a bachelor's degree from the State University of New York at Buffalo and a master's degree in Chinese history from St. John's University, Silver studied drama at the Herbert Berghof Studio and the Actors Studio.

In the 1970s, he gradually moved from theater work in New York City into television and film. His early credits included "The Mac Davis Show," "Rhoda" and "The Stockard Channing Show."

Silver and ex-wife Lynne Miller had a son, Adam, and daughter, Alexandra.

Whichever end of the political spectrum his activism fell, Silver viewed such involvement as something of a duty for entertainers.

"I think there's almost an obligation," he said in a 1991 interview with the AP. "Many of us are very well compensated for work which a lot of people would love to do. And we also have a lot of leisure time in between jobs. ...

"They say that Hollywood is sex without substance, and Washington is substance without sex, so maybe the marriage of the two is mutually intriguing."



was called to her eternal rest at the age of 18

October 26, 1990 - March 11, 2009

Her love and memories will forever remain in the hearts of her:

Parents: Joaquin Mitch I. Pangelinan Carmen Tudela Cabrera

Brothers/Sisters and Spouses:

Brenna Lyangeline Tudela Cabrera and Ramon Garrido Villagomez II
Jacqueena Tomiko Cabrera Pangelinan
Mark Dave and Rosie Pangelinan
Michael Steven and Vivian Pangelinan
Zarah and Clement Bermudes
Ian Francis and Jolene Pangelinan
Gina and Seth Sablan
Justalyn Camacho

Gorjonny Camacho Leana Camacho

Grandmothers:

Escolastica Tudela Cabrera Justa Quitano Camacho

Aunties and Uncles:

Linda T. Cabrera
Isidoro T./Susana C. Cabrera
David M./Daria C. Cing
Elroy Jr./Millan C. Hill
Thomas M./Oliva C. Deleon Guerrero
Ghazanfar/Olinka C. Chaudhry
Noel T. Cabrera/Carmen
Anthony T. Cabrera/Riza
Edward A./Gloria C. Reyes
Rita T. Cabrera
Eleonita C. Camacho/George J. Castro
Eloy T. Cabrera

In her new life she now joins her:

Grandfathers:

†Gregorio Camacho Cabrera †Vidal Acosta Camacho

Uncles:

†Estevan I. Kileleman †Raymond S. Camacho

Her memory will also live in the hearts of numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Daily mass is being offered every morning at 6:00 a.m. and nightly holy rosary at 7:30 p.m. at Kristo Rai Church, Garapan.

On **Thursday, March 19, 2009** our beloved Verena will be escorted from Nuestra Senora Dela Paz Memorial Chapel at 7:30 a.m. to Kristo Rai Church, Garapan for viewing and last respect. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 1:00 p.m. followed by internment service at Tanapag Public Cemetery.

Please join us in prayers.

JOAQUIN MITCH I. PANGELINAN / CARMEN TUDELA CABRERA AND CHILDREN

Witch Mountain races to top spot at box office

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Disney's "Race to Witch Mountain" raced to No. 1 at the weekend box office, bypassing expectations with \$25 million in ticket sales.

The PG-rated sci-fi flick starring Dwavne Johnson as a cab driver with a pair of alien teenagers along for the ride topped the R-rated superhero epic "Watchmen," which earned \$18.1 million in its second week.

Mark Zoradi, president of Disney's motion-picture group, said analysts had predicted that "Race to Witch Mountain," director Andy Fickman's re-imagination of the 1975 live-action film "Escape to Witch Mountain," would fly away with \$20 million or less. Now he expects this "Witch Mountain" to maintain a high orbit in theaters with kids on spring break.

- "Race to Witch Mountain," \$25 million
- **"Watchmen**," \$ 18.1 mil-
- "The Last House on the
- Left," \$14.7 million. "Taken," \$6.7 million.
- "Tyler Perry's Madea
- Goes to Jail," \$5.1 million. "Slumdog Millionaire,"
- "Paul Blart: Mall Cop," \$3.1 million.
- "He's Just Not That
- Into You," \$2.9 million. 'Coraline," \$3.3 million.
- 10. "Miss March," \$2.4 mil-

"I think audiences this weekend were really drawn to the action adventure of 'Race to Witch was also this element of parents

over 30 who remembered the original and were drawn to this one, so I think that combination is what helped us exceed what folks in the industry thought this movie was going to do."

Ticket sales for "Watchmen" plummeted 67 percent from last weekend's \$55.2 million debut, according to studio estimates Sunday. Jeff Goldstein, Warner Bros. executive vice president of distribution, said the studio anticipated the big dip for director Zack Snyder's comic book adaptation about a team of subversive superheros.

"It's very common with higher profile, highly anticipated movies," said Goldstein.

Also opening this weekend in wide release was "The Last Mountain," said Zoradi. "There House on the Left," the Universal horror remake, which turned



In this film still released by Disney, actors, from left, Carla Gugino, AnnaSophia Robb, Alexander Ludwig and Dwayne Johnson are shown in a scene from "Race to Witch Mountain."

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Race To Witch Mountain

4:15 7:30 9:40 1:10 4:15 7:30 9:40 Friday Saturday Mon and Tues 4:15 7:30

Dwayne Johnson, Ciarán Hinds Action, Adventure • Rated PG

Synopsis

The Last House On The Left

Horror • Rated R

Watchmen

Mon and Tues

Saturday

Sunday

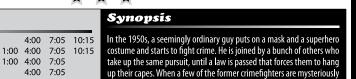
the Nevada desert, known for unexplained phenomena and strange nds two teens with supernatural powers in his cab, he suddenly find: himself in the middle of an adventure he can't explain. Synopsis

For years, stories have circulated about a secret place in the middle of



The night she arrives at the remote Collingwood lakehouse, Mari and her friend are kidnapped by a prison escapee and his crew. Terrified and left for 1:25 4:30 7:15 4:30 7:15 dead, Mari's only hope is to make it back to parents John and Emma. Mon and Tues Garret Dillahunt, Rhys Corio

Unfortunately, her attackers unknowingly seek shelter at the one place she could be safe. And when her family learns the horrifying story, they will make three strangers curse the day they came to the last house on the left.





Action, Adventure • Rated R Love Me Again

ار Akerman ا

4:25 7:20 9:50 4:25 7:20 9:50 1:30 4:25 1:30 4:25 7:20 Sunday Mon and Tues 7:20 4:25

1:00 4:00

4:00 7:05

Billy Crudup

Piolo Pascual, Angel Locsin Love, Romance, Drama • Rated PG

Pink Panther 2 Friday Saturday

4:10 7:10 9:30 1:15 4:10 7:10 9:30 1:15 4:10 7:10 Sunday Mon and Tues 4:10 7:10

Steve Martin, Andy Garcia





Slumdog Millionaire

4:20 7:00 9:45 1:05 4:20 7:00 9:45 1:05 4:20 7:00 Sunday Mon and Tues 4:20 7:00

Dev Patel, Anil Kapoor Comedy, Drama • Rated R

The Uninvited

Friday 4:05 7:25 9:35 1:20 4:05 7:25 9:35 1:20 4:05 7:25 Saturday Sunday Mon and Tues 4:05 7:25

Elizabeth Banks, David Strathairn Horror, Remake • Rated PG 13

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up at No. 3 with \$14.7 million in ticket sales, and "Miss March," the Fox Atomic comedy in the No. 10 spot with \$2.4 million. 20th Century Fox's thriller "Taken" remained at No. 4 with \$6.7 million in its seventh weekend in theaters.

Factoring in 2009's higher admission prices, the weekend box office total was down 16 percent compared with last year, making it the first down weekend in six weeks. Paul Dergarabedian, president of box office tracker Media By Numbers, does not believe the shift signals the end of 2009's otherwise stellar year at the box office.

"I don't think this down weekend reflects any kind of lack of interest by the audience," Dergarabedian said. "I think it has to do with 'Dr. Seuss' Horton figures will be released Monday.

Hears a Who' opening a year ago with \$45 million. That's really a tough comparison. Not every weekend this year is going to be up when you have some strong openings like that from last year.'

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Media By Numbers LLC. Final

Connecticut's Gold Coast braces for Jerry Springer

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (AP)— Connecticut's Gold Coast, a bastion of suburban perfection including both Martha Stewart and the Stepford Wives, is about to become home to Jerry Springer's bawdy TV show, which features wife swappers, strippers and skinheads.

Subject to negotiations, Springer's show will move from Chicago this summer into the new production studio at the Rich Forum Theater in Stamford, about 30 miles from New York City and next to one of the region's largest and oldest Catholic churches. The pastor says he plans to talk to church lawyers to see if they can stop the plan after hearing complaints from parishioners, including one who called the show "low-brow."

"They didn't think this was the right place for it," said the Rev. Stephen DiGiovanni of St. John's Catholic Church. "I'm not very thrilled about it."

Fairfield County is one of the nation's richest regions and inspired the classic film "The Stepford Wives" in which the men in a seemingly perfect town find a way to turn their spouses into beautiful, compliant housebound robots. Stewart's television show focusing on fine living was filmed for many years in nearby Westport.

Springer, the former mayor of Cincinnati, shows the seedier side of life with a show known for profanity, fistfights, cheating spouses and incestuous relationships. Many of the guests are from low-income backgrounds and reinforce negative attitudes



Jerry Springer's bawdy TV show, which features wife swappers, strippers and skinheads, will move from Chicago this summer into the new production studio at the Rich Forum Theater in Stamford, about 30 miles from New York City.

about the poor, DiGiovanni said. on other peoples' misery and

stereotypes," DiGiovanni said. Telephone messages were left Thursday and Friday for Springer.

The deal would also bring two other shows with similar formats. "Maury," hosted by Maury Povich, would move from New York, and "The Steve Wilkos Show," hosted by the former security director of "Springer," would move from Chicago this summer to start producing shows for next season.

Connecticut officials see dollar signs amid the Wall Street meltdown that has taken a toll on Fairfield County, which borders New York and is home to many business executives. They said the new studio that will house Springer's show and two other shows will create 150 to 200 jobs and could be the start of an emerging entertainment industry in Connecticut.

"It's a home run for Fairfield County," said Joseph McGee of the Business Council of Fairfield County. "This is not public radio, but who cares? Springer may upgrade his audience mix."

Connecticut officials announced last month they were in final negotiations with NBC Universal to open the studio by offering a 30 percent production tax credit on annual activity and a 20 percent tax credit on infrastructure costs exceeding \$1 million. The state would spend \$3 million in infrastructure, Gov. M. Jodi Rell said.

"We hope to close the deal soon, but I'm kind of getting "Springer is making millions a jump on the gun because we're so excited about bringing some new talent and new production to the state," she told reporters Feb. 27.

> "We are delighted that the film production tax credit enables us to create high-paying jobs in the state, and we're happy to be working with the governor and the mayor to stimulate the Connecticut economy and also to help save the arts center financially," NBC said.

> The deal will help the Stamford Center for the Arts-which runs the Rich Forum and another theater—pull out of Chapter 11 bankruptcy, said Michael Widland, the center's chairman.

Attorney: Lohan will not appear in court Monday

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. to complete a drug test or not re-(AP)—Lindsay Lohan won't be in court Monday to respond to a warrant for her arrest but her lawyer will be there.

Attorney Shawn Chapman Holley told The Associated Press on Sunday that she will appear in court on behalf of the 22-year-old actress.

A Beverly Hills judge issued the warrant Friday. It carries a \$50,000 bail.

Holley said she believes the warrant was issued as the result of a misunderstanding and that it should be cleared in court.

A spokeswoman for the district attorney's office said the warrant apparently has something to do with Lohan's probation.

The "Mean Girls" star was sentenced to three years probation following a pair of DUI arrests in 2007. Since then, Holley said, she has complied with all court orders.

Violations could include failing

porting to her probation officer.

Lohan was arrested Memorial Day weekend 2007 after her Mercedes-Benz hit a tree in Beverly Hills. She was arrested in Santa Monica a few weeks later after the mother of her former personal assistant called 911 to report that her car was being chased by an SUV driven by Lohan.

The actress pleaded guilty to two misdemeanor counts of being under the influence of cocaine, no contest to two counts of driving with a blood-alcohol level above .08 percent and one count of reckless driving.

She spent 84 minutes in jail and was ordered to perform community service and undergo drug-rehabilitation treatment.

She was warned at the time that if she violated her probation she could face up to a year in jail on each of the drunk-driving and cocaine charges and 90 days on the reckless-driving charge.



In this Thursday, Oct. 30, 2008, file photo, Actress Lindsay Lohan attends FEARnet's 2nd anniversary party at The Cellar Bar, in New York.

Actor Charlie Sheen and wife welcome twin boys



LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Two and a Half Men" star Charlie Sheen and his wife Brooke Mueller are the proud parents of

Publicist Stan Rosenfield says the babies, Bob and Max, were born Saturday night in Los Angeles.

Rosenfield says Mueller is 'doing great," and that Sheen is "ecstatic."

The twins are the first children for Mueller and Sheen, who married last May. Sheen shares custody of two young daughters with ex-wife Denise Richards and also has an older daughter with a former girlfriend.

In this Sept. 21,2008 file photo showing Charlie Sheen arriving with his wife Brooke at the 60th Primetime Emmy Awards in Los

Martin to Ore. troupe: Show will go on, on my dime

LA GRANDE, Ore. (AP)— Steve Martin has offered to pay for an off-campus production of his play "Picasso at the Lapin Agile," which was banned from a high school because parents objected to what they called adult content.

The actor and comedian said in a letter to a newspaper that he wants to keep the play, conducted in other high schools without controversy, "from acquiring a reputation it does not deserve."

The 1993 play imagines a meeting between Pablo Picasso and Albert Einstein in a Paris bar as they are on the verge of great achievements in painting and physics.

It is aimed at explaining "the similarity of the creative process involved in great leaps of imagination in art and science," Martin said in the letter published Friday in The La Grande Observer.

He said he disagreed strongly with local characterizations of the play as having to do with

"people drinking in bars, and treating women as sex objects."

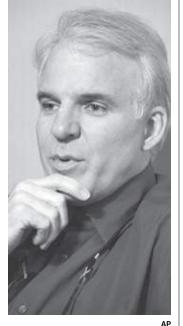
Last month a parent objected to the production planned by La Grande High School teacher Kevin Cahill and gave school officials a petition signed by 137 people. The school board halted rehearsals.

Since then, plans have been afoot for the students to present the play instead at Eastern Oregon University in La Grande, with a Student Democrats group raising money.

Martin read online of the controversy, said a spokesman, Alan Nierob.

Cahill told The Observer that money from Martin would be added to the funds raised locally for the May 16-18 run-and any left over would go for acting scholarships at the college.

Martin said he could understand how some parents might object to their 16- or 17-yearolds delivering some lines, and he said whether the play should



Actor Steve Martin interviewed by Hillel Itale, in this Dec. 9, 1992 file photo.

be presented at the high school itself "remains something to be determined by the community."



Altovise Davis, the widow of Sammy Davis Jr., visit Sirius Satellite Radio in this Wednesday, Feb. 7, 2007 file photo taken in New York.

Sammy Davis Jr.'s widow dies at age 65

LOS ANGELES (AP)— Altovise Joanne Gore Davis, a dancer and actress and the widow of Sammy Davis Jr., has died. She was 65.

Davis died Saturday at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center after suffering a stroke, said Amy Malone, a publicist for her family.

Davis worked her way to the Broadway stage where she met the legendary entertainer when they performed together in the musical "Golden Boy" in 1967.

She became his third wife when they wed in 1970 (Davis was previously married to dancer Loray White and Swedish actress Mai Britt). They adopted a son and remained together until Davis died of throat cancer in 1990 at the age of 64.

After his death she was left to sort through his multimillion IRS tax debt and oversee his troubled estate. Last year, she sued two former business partners in federal court, claiming they tricked her into signing away the rights to the estate. The suit is pending.

Medical diagnosis can ease stress for both mom and son

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: Your answer to "Frustrated Mom in Virginia" (Jan. 5) was on the money. There could be a wide range of reasons for her son's "shortcomings."

I can say from personal experience that it is never too late to get her son diagnosed. I am an ADHD (Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder) adult, whose mother mistakenly believed that being "on my case" would lessen my frequent errors. However, no matter how hard you



try to learn from your mistakes, when your mind is going 100 miles an hour and thinking of 10 different things at the same time, errors are repeated.

"Frustrated's" son may appear not to care because, in part, he feels that no matter what he does, he will still fail. When I began to develop physical symptoms from the stress, my mother was told she needed to back off. I know how hard it was for my mom—an organized person with strong attention to details—to have a child like me who was the exact opposite.

That young man needs strategies to help improve his life, as I did. There is so much more knowledge and research than there was when I was a child. "Frustrated" should not blame herself but, like her son, she needs help, too.

E.P. IN GARRISONVILLE, VA.

DEAR E.P.: You are among many caring readers who wanted to share their experiences with "Frustrated Mom" as a way to provide an explanation for her son's behavior. However, a psychological or neurological disorder is something that can be determined only by a physician. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: I am an occupational therapist, and it sounds like this young man could have Sensory Processing Disorder. It is common for people with this disorder to have difficulty grading their movements, i.e., using too much force, slamming doors instead of closing them. They also have difficulty recognizing personal space.

I suggest that the mother have her son evaluated by an occupational therapist who specializes in sensory integration. If he has SPD, their lives will change dramatically through intervention and education.

THERAPIST IN WINTER GARDEN, FLA.

DEAR ABBY: My 17-year-old son displays similar behavior. Asperger's syndrome is often overlooked because its symptoms can be so mild that behavior otherwise appears normal.

A common symptom is lack of personal space awareness, or the person may appear to be rude or insensitive. The lack of remorse after clumsily bumping into someone is also indicative of the emotional/social disconnect (lack of empathy) that is associated with this disorder.

The behavior can be especially frustrating because it appears the otherwise "normal" person is inconsiderate, thoughtless or unfeeling. "Frustrated" should have her son evaluated for Asperger's.

EMPATHETIC DAD IN SPRINGFIELD, MASS.

DEAR ABBY: Last year my 8-year-old son was exhibiting symptoms of ADD/ADHD -- constantly losing things, fidgeting, lack of concentration, along with a wide range of other annoying behaviors. He was hospitalized and referred to occupational therapy by a therapist who recognized his symptoms as being part of Sensory Integration Disorder.

I am happy to tell you that after almost a year of OT, we have discovered ways to make his life easier by understanding what sensory input he needs. Being able to fulfill my son's sensory needs has helped with his clumsiness, forgetfulness and lack of attention, and he no longer displays signs of ADHD. Such a simple remedy to a very troublesome problem. There is hope.

A MOTHER IN BEND, ORE.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone-teens to seniors-is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby-Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

22 TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2009 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

MY MOTOR BROKE! THE PIECE SNAPPED! WELHERHY. I MAITED WEEKS FOR THIS AND NOW IT'S BROKEN, AND I DIDN'T HOW MY BEANIE PROPELLER WON'T WORK! EVEN GET TO NEAR IT! STUPID **ROTTEN**





By Bill Waterson

Garfield®





By Jim Davis

Adam@home





or Satie

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40 Read

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By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

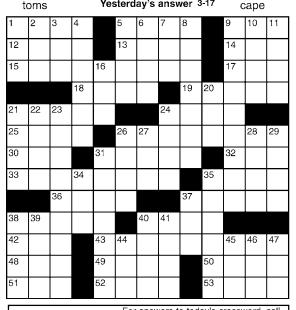




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For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch STUMPED? tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Caroline Corr, 36; Mia Hamm, 35; Rob Lowe, 45; Gary Sinise, 54

Happy Birthday: You've got the stamina to take on monumental tasks, surprising people who know you and attracting people who don't. You can make some critical changes regarding your friendships and allies. In the end, loyalty will count. Love is in the stars but be careful not to fall for someone who is too demanding. Your numbers are 8, 14, 25, 27, 34, 40, 42

▲ ARIES (March 21-April 19): Make some of the alterations in your life that you feel will help you obtain greater security and financial gains. Discipline, a little pushiness and a whole lot of dedication will help you see your way to the top. Don't slow down because of someone else. 🛇 🔾 🔾 🔾

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Too much, too soon and too fast will be your downfall. Keep things small, to yourself and, above all, cost efficient. Your success will come from working slowly but consistently toward something you believe in. 😂 😂

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't let the competition scare you into thinking you aren't up for something you really want to do. Refuse to let your emotions take over, causing uncertainty. Positive thoughts will get you to the starting line and see you through to the end. •••

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Something interesting is heading your way so be prepared to take advantage of what's offered. Not everyone or everything will please you but you will be given enough to work with and can come up with a plan everyone accepts.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You are a leader, so set the standard but don't feel you have to carry everyone along with you. Once you've given everyone instructions, you should be able to move on to more important matters. Never feel that you have to pay for others.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You'll have trouble controlling emotional matters. Don't give up but don't get sucked into someone else's dilemma. Make some changes at home that will benefit everyone. Versatility will

be your saving grace. 😂 LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Ease your own stress by delegating work to people on whom you can count to do a good job. Expand your ideas and make greater plans for the future. A trip will allow you to hook up with someone you find exciting and special.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Finish what you start and don't let others interfere with your plans. Letting others meddle will set you back. It's time to satisfy your own needs instead of letting someone guilt you into doing things his or her way. •••

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Jealousy will not get you very far. Exaggerating a point will put you in a tight spot. Think before you make a promise. Your emotional response to a romantic situation will help you smooth things over.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): There are financial, contractual and personal EUGENIA

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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opportunities to be considered. Before you take on something new, clear your decision with the people you love most. An interesting point could alter your decision.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Sitting back will make you look hard petent. Physical changes will enhance your appeal and help you get ahead personally and professionally. Someone may have an emotional problem with the choices you make. ����

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): If you want to make the right decision, wait and see how others react to the same choices. Don't be fooled by someone's sob story or emotional plea. Ulterior motives are present so be sure you can trust the people you are dealing with. 😂

Birthday Baby: You are emotional, sensitive, determined and always looking for adventure and a challenge. You are confident regarding your own abilities.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

			5	1	7			
	1		8		2		5	
		7				8		
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6 5				3				9
1	9						7	8
		9				7		
	6		1		4		2	
			9	7	5			

Difficulty Level ★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	5	3	6	7	9	8	4	1
9	6	7	8	1	4	5	3	2
8	1	4	2	3	5	7	9	6
7	3	8	9	4	1	6	2	5
6	2	1	5	8	3	4	7	9
4	9	5	7	6	2	3	1	8
1	4	9	3	5	6	2	8	7
3	7	6	1	2	8	9	5	4
5	8	2	4	9	7	1	6	З

Difficulty Level *

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WONDERWORD

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY, DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell

LEAP YEARS Solution: 9 letters							ters							
D	Α	L	S	Ν	0	1	Τ	[D	Α	R	Т	S	Е
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Yesterday's Answer: Green Coat

Treasury 4 is available to order by sending check or money order for \$10.95 each plus \$3.25 postage and handling each \$14.20 total each, U.S. funds only for the first volume, \$1.50 p8h for each additional volume, to Universal Press Syndicate, Alth: Wonderword, 130 Wahnu St., Karasa Cky, Mo. 64160 e.c. act Intel-file, 1-20-664-480. Older online at upuzzlescomine and upuzzlescome.

TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2009 23 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

→大台村田計計下水台上圓開在四本の地下1944年 →大台田計計門大学自工計画大田本の地下1948年

WHATZIT Solution: Put on a brave face

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Saipan Tribune



AUTOMOTIVE

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



Find today's solution in this section

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM P.O. BOX 501370 CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950 **HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE**

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT PROMOTIONAL & OPEN COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION ANNOUNCEMENT

It is the policy of the Board of Education, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, that the Public School Personnel System shall be applied and administered according to the principles of equal employment opportunity as defined by the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Public Law 6 - 10, regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, handicap or place of origin. Applicants for this position must be a U.S. Citizen or be eligible and authorized to work in the U.S., including the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Announcement No: PSS – 2009 - 015 Application & Employmer Position Title: Systems & Software Applications Specialist Application & Employment Type: Non-Certified

(Education Specialist I-III / E-rate Program Coordinator) Per Annum Salary: \$23,706.31 - \$44,685.93 Closing Date: March 25, 2009 Pay Level/Step: 31-33 / 01-12 March 10, 2009 Opening Date:

Location: **PSS – Administrative Services Office** Benefits: Salary Commensurate with qualifications and experience, plus excellent benefits (including Life Insurance, Retirement Benefits, and Paid Leave/Holidays

Minimum Requirements: Education Specialist I – Graduation from an accredited college or university with a Bachelor's degree in Education or Education Administration, plus two (2) years work related experience in teaching, designing and implementing subject program and/or training of teachers and

<u>Education Specialist II</u> – Graduation from an accredited college or university with a Bachelor's degree in Education or Education Administration, plus four (4) years work related experience in teaching, designing and implementing subject program and/or training of teachers and specialists OR graduation from an accredited college or university with a Bachelor's degree in Education or Education Administration, plus six (6) years work related experience in teaching,

designing and implementing subject program and/or training of teachers and specialists.

<u>Education Specialist III</u> – Graduation from an accredited college or university with a Master's degree in Education or Education Administration, plus five (5) years work related experience in teaching, designing and implementing subject program and/or training of teachers and specialists OR graduation from an accredited college or university with a Bachelor's degree in Education or Education Administration, plus seven (7) years work related experience in teaching, designing and implementing subject program and/or training of teachers and specialists.

*Detailed job description with qualification requirements can be obtained at PSS Human Resources Office at the 3rd Retirement Building, Capitol Hill, or download it online www.pss.cnmi.mp/humanresources

INTERESTED APPLICANTS MAY OBTAIN A DETAILED JOB DESCRIPTION WITH QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS AND APPLICATION FORMS AT THE PSS HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE AT THE 3rd RETIREMENT BUILDING, CAPITOL HILL. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MUST BE ATTACHED TO COMPLETE APPLICATION FORMS: (1) COPY OF DIPLOMA/DEGREE, (2) TRANSCRIPTS, (3) POLICE CLEARANCE (FROM PLACE OF RESIDENCE FOR PAST SIXO MONTHS), (4) VERIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT LETTER, (5) RESUME, AND (6) TEACHING CERTIFICATE (IF APPLICABLE).COMPLETED APPLICATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MAY BE SUBMITTED TO THE HUMAN PRESOURCES OFFICE OR MAILED TO: CNMI PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM, ATTN: HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE, RETIREMENT BUILDING; THIRD FLOOR, P.O. BOX 501370 CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950, and TEL. #. (670) 237-3051, FAX # (670) 664-3707. ALSO VISIT http://www.pss.cnmi.mp/humanresources ON THE WORLDWIDE WEB.

Saipan Tribune Subscribe to the CNMI's First Daily Newspaper There is still hope for nonimmigrant state 235- NEWS loins Micronesia sun

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Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$25
• 5-Liner	\$35
 3-Liner with picture 	\$45
 5-Liner with picture 	\$55

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:

- Saipan Tribune: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Team USA beats Netherlands, 9-3



Team USA avoided elimination from the World Baseball Classic, beating the Netherlands 9-3 to ease the sting of a drubbing endured against Puerto Rico the night before.

Jimmy Rollins drove in four runs with a homer, triple and sacrifice fly, and Team USA newcomer Brian Roberts went 3-for-3 with two walks, two runs and two RBIs. Roy Oswalt pitched four scoreless innings, then six relievers completed a 12-hitter.

Even with a six-run lead in the eighth, the Americans remained feisty. Matt Lindstrom gave up a leadoff homer to Bryan Engelhardt, who took a long look at his prodigious drive before jogging around the bases. When Lindstrom's next pitch sailed behind Vince Rooi, Dutch players took several steps onto the field as they yelled angrily at the pitcher.

Lindstrom retired Rooi, faced three more batters and left the game with a stiff pitching shoulder. He was scheduled for an MRI exam Monday.

Left fielder Ryan Braun de-

parted in the ninth with a sore left side.

Few fans were on hand to witness the Americans' turnaround. With a crowd of 11,059, the game had the atmosphere of a matchup between the Marlins and Nationals.

Still one loss from elimination, the United States will play Tuesday night against the loser of Monday night's game between Puerto Rico and Venezuela. Lefthander Ted Lilly is slated to pitch for the Americans. If they win, they'll advance to the semifinals next weekend in Los Angeles.

The Dutch were eliminated. Despite a roster sprinkled with minor league prospects, they became the surprise team of the tournament when they beat the Dominican Republic twice in the opening round.

The Americans bounced back from a loss Saturday that triggered the mercy rule when they fell 10 runs behind, ending their game against Puerto Rico in the seventh inning.

The rout left Team USA with an ERA of 7.22, but Oswalt and the bullpen shut down the Netherlands

Oswalt (1-0) left with a 6-0 lead. He allowed five hits but struck out five and escaped a bases-loaded jam in the third. LaTroy Hawkins, Scot Shields and Jonathan Broxton each



United States' Jimmy Rollins reacts after hitting a two-run home run off Netherlands' Rick VandenHurk in the second inning during a World Baseball Classic game in Miami, Sunday, March 15, 2009.

pitched one scoreless inning.

Adam Dunn hit his third homer of the tournament, and Roberts sparked the offense only hours after joining the team as a replacement for second baseman Dustin Pedroia, sidelined by an abdominal injury.

The injury-plagued Americans also lost Chipper Jones for

the rest of the tournament. He was scratched from the designated hitter spot before the game after he aggravated a strain in his right side.

The Netherlands contributed the defensive gem of the game. With the bases loaded, first baseman Randall Simon fielded a grounder to his right. Spinhe threw a three-hopper to the plate for a forceout and a place in the WBC highlight reel.

Marlins right-hander Rick VandenHurk (0-1), pitching in his home ballpark as the Dutch starter, lasted only two innings and allowed three runs, one earned.

Roberts singled in the first and scored the Americans' first run on a sacrifice fly by David Wright, Team USA added two unearned runs in the second when right fielder Dirk Van't Klooster dropped a two-out fly for a two-base error and Rollins homered.

Rollins and Roberts hit backto-back RBI triples in the fourth. Roberts, needing a home run to complete the cycle, walked with the bases loaded in the fifth and walked again in the seventh.

Team USA led 8-0 before Yurendell DeCaster doubled in the Netherlands' first run in the seventh.

Japan 6, Cuba 0

At San Diego, Daisuke Matsuzaka is turning the World Baseball Classic into his personal showcase again.

Pitching in the same ballpark where he led his country to the inaugural WBC title three years ago, the Boston Red Sox ace was brilliant in silencing Cuba's previously undefeated big bop-

ning as he fell onto his back, pers as Japan opened the second round with a 6-0 win Sunday.

> How OK is Dice-K with the WBC? Try 5-0 in five starts. He's 2-0 in this edition after going 3-0 in 2006, when he was selected MVP after leading Japan to a 10-6 victory over Cuba in the championship game at Petco Park.

South Korea 8, Mexico 2

At San Diego, South Korea used an unexpected power display of three home runs off Oliver Perez to beat Mexico.

South Korea, which upset Cuba to win the gold medal at the Beijing Olympics, got long balls at spacious Petco Park from Lee Bum-ho, Kim Taekyun and Ko Young-min. Kim finished with three RBIs.

The South Koreans had only four home runs in four games coming in. Mexico, which is loaded with major leaguers, including three members of the San Diego Padres, had a WBChigh 12 long balls coming in but failed to clear the faraway fences on Sunday night.

Mexico has given up 11 homers in five games. Perez, who signed a \$36 million, three-year contract in February to remain with the New York Mets, has allowed five homers in 6 2-3 innings over two starts.

Richardson scores 31 in Suns' 154-130 victory



OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)-Jason Richardson scored 31 points against his former team, Shaquille O'Neal added 26, and the Phoenix Suns rang up the

highest point total in the NBA this season in a 154-130 victory over the Golden State Warriors on Sunday night.

Matt Barnes, another former Warriors player, added 20 points and a career-high 11 assists as the Suns ended a fivegame losing streak on the road and a four-game skid at Golden State. Leandro Barbosa added 21 points and Jared Dudley and Steve Nash each had 11.

Monta Ellis scored 26 points and Corey Maggette added 21 for the Warriors, who had won their last two at home. Kelenna Azubuike scored 18 and Jamal Crawford had 17 as Golden State was officially eliminated from playoff contention.

Lakers 107, Mavericks 100

At Los Angeles, Kobe Bryant scored 28 points, Trevor Ariza had a career-high 26, and the Los Angeles Lakers squandered a big lead before taking control late.

Pau Gasol added 25 for the Lakers, who are battling Cleveland for the NBA's best record and are already the Pacific Division champs. They could meet the Mavericks in the first round of the playoffs.

Reserve Jason Terry led Dallas with 29 points and Dirk Nowitzki added 20 on 6-of-20 shooting.

Gasol finished 12-of-13 from the floor, making all 10 of his shots in the first half. Bryant was 11-of-20 for the game.

Bucks 86, Celtics 77

At Milwaukee, Charlie Villanueva scored 11 of his 19 points in the fourth quarter, and Milwaukee held off Boston.

Kendrick Perkins scored a career-high 26 points with 12 rebounds, but had little help from anybody else as Milwaukee denied the defending champions a chance to clinch their second straight Atlantic Division crown. Paul Pierce had 15 points.

Cavaliers 98, Knicks 93

At Cleveland, Mo Williams scored 23 points, LeBron James added 19 and Cleveland opened a crucial stretch of home games by beating New York.

The Cavaliers didn't put the Knicks away until the final minutes and improved the NBA's best home record to 29-1. Cleveland, battling Boston for the best mark in the Eastern Conference and home-court advantage in the postseason, will play seven of its next eight games at Quick- 21 in 34 1/2 minutes. en Loans Arena.

Al Harrington made five 3-pointers and scored 26 points for New York, which had its three-game winning streak stopped.

Magic 105, Jazz 87

At Orlando, Fla., Dwight Howard had 28 points and 20 rebounds, leading Orlando over weary Utah for its third straight victory.

The Magic (49-17) closed within a half-game of the Boston Celtics (50-17), who lost earlier in the day, for the No. 2 seed in the upcoming playoffs.

Carlos Boozer had 23 points and 13 rebounds for the Jazz, coming off a triple-overtime loss in Miami a day earlier. The Magic got 16 points from point guard Rafer Alston and 14 from backup point guard Anthony Johnson.

76ers 85, Heat 77

At Philadelphia, Andre Iguodala scored 21 points, seldomused Donyell Marshall got his 10 points in the fourth quarter and Philadelphia beat Miami.

Dwyane Wade, coming off a 50-point performance in a triple-overtime victory over Utah on Saturday, was held to 18. The NBA's leading scorer looked tired after playing a career-high 52 1/2 minutes against the Jazz. He shot 8-for-

Thaddeus Young scored 17 points and Samuel Dalembert had eight points and 12 rebounds for Philadelphia, which won its third straight and moved within two games of Miami for fifth place in the Eastern Conference.

Hawks 98, Trail **Blazers 80**

At Atlanta, Joe Johnson scored 35 points, Josh Smith had 19 points and eight rebounds, and Atlanta beat Portland for its fifth consecutive victory.

Brandon Roy finished with 29 points for the Blazers, who have lost two of three. Portland dropped a half-game behind Denver for the Northwest Division lead and fell out of a threeway tie with the Nuggets and New Orleans Hornets for fourth place in the Western Conference.

Johnson, who scored 15 points in the third quarter, shot 15-for-27 from the field in his fourth straight 30-point game. He handed out six assists, but missed all four of his 3-point attempts.

Grizzlies 89, **Pistons 84**

At Auburn Hills, Mich., Mike Conley scored 20 points and Darko Milicic added a doubledouble against his former team as Memphis ended a sevengame losing streak to Detroit.

The Palace crowd observed

a moment of silence before the game in honor of longtime owner William Davidson, who died Friday at the age of 86. The Pistons wore a black ribbon on their left shoulders.

Antonio McDyess led the Pistons with 19 points and 12 rebounds, while Richard Hamilton had 14 points and 12 assists.

Raptors 110, Pacers 87

At Toronto, Andrea Bargnani scored 27 points, Chris Bosh had 15 points and 13 rebounds, and Toronto used a big second half to beat Indiana and snap a seven-game losing streak.

Pops Mensah-Bonsu scored a career-high 21 points and Jose Calderon added 15 points and 12 assists for Toronto, which had not won since a 118-110 home victory over Minnesota on Feb. 24.

Troy Murphy had 16 points and 10 rebounds for the Pacers, with T.J. Ford adding 15 and Jarrett Jack 13.

Wizards 106, Kings 104

At Washington, with the league's worst record on the line, Washington kept Sacramento in the cellar, dropping the Kings' record against the Eastern Conference to 0-26.

Antawn Jamison scored 30 points to lead the Wizards, whose 16-51 record remains only marginally better than the Kings' 14-52. Sacramento re-

mained on course to become the first NBA team to go winless against the other conference— in the same season that the Wizards are closing in on becoming the first to go winless against its own division.

Andray Blatche added 16 points, and Darius Songaila 15 for the Wizards. Washington played without Caron Butler, who has a tight left hamstring and will have an MRI exam Monday.

Kevin Martin scored 24 points to lead the Kings, who were missing Bobby Jackson but welcomed back Beno Udrih.

Clippers 107, **Nets 105**

At Los Angeles, Steve Novak made a buzzer-beating 3-pointer-his seventh of the gameto help the Clippers snap a seven-game losing streak.

Vince Carter had a season high 41 points along with seven rebounds and six assists for the Nets, whose postseason hopes may have been hurt when point guard and leading scorer Devin Harris left with 8:53 remaining in the third quarter because of a strained left shoulder.

The All-Star who was driving to the basket on an attempted layup when Marcus Camby swatted the ball and Harris' right arm simultaneously—sending Harris crashing to the floor.

Novak finished with 21 points, and Baron Davis and Al Thornton each scored 20 for Los Angeles.

Mickelson wins Doral in duel with Watney



DORAL, Fla. (AP)—No longer the best player without a World Golf Championship,

Championship, Phil Mickelson won a spirited duel at Doral on Sunday to win the CA Championship and put himself in position to reach No. 1 in the world.

Mickelson, taken to a hospital on the eve of the final round with heat exhaustion and dehydration, survived seven lead changes in 11 holes against Nick Watney before hanging on with seven pars for a 3-under 69 and a one-shot victory.

Mickelson won for the second time in three starts and moved to No. 2 in the world ranking, as close to Tiger Woods as he has ever been. Depending on how Woods fares at Bay Hill, Mickelson might have a chance to go to No. 1 when he plays again.

Winning this tournament was all that mattered.

Mickelson finished at 19-under 269 and earned \$1.4 million, the biggest check of his career.

Four years ago, Mickelson lost a two-shot lead against Woods in a duel that ranks among the best ever at Doral. He didn't get his revenge against the world's No. 1 player, but Watney gave him all he could handle.

"It took a lot out of me," said Mickelson, who sipped on energy drinks throughout the round. "I haven't eaten much in three days. I fought hard. I've been playing some of my best golf, and I'm very excited to have finished it off."

Watney closed with a 2-under 70, holing an unlikely chip for birdie from behind the ninth green, then making an eagle on the 10th to pull into a tie for the

lead. Needing a birdie on the 18th hole, which yielded only three in the final round, Watney thought his 30-footer was good until it stopped one turn away.

He pulled his cap over his face, and could only watch as Mickelson took two putts from 25 feet away for par and the victory.

"I'll get over this," Watney said. "It's a positive week. I played really well. Beat 78 of the best players in the world. Beat Tiger, which is always good. I'm very pleased with the way I'm playing."

Woods, in his first stroke-play event since winning the U.S. Open, closed with another 68 to finish eight shots behind in a tie for ninth, but at least kept one streak alive. He has never finished out of the top 10 on the Blue Monster.

"I didn't get anything out of my rounds," Woods said. "I hit the ball a lot better than my scoring indicates."

Jim Furyk shot 31 on the back nine for a 67 to finish alone in third. Jeev Milkha Singh had a 70 and was alone in fourth, his best result in a PGA Tour event.

But the show throughout a steamy afternoon on the Blue Monster belonged to Mickelson and Watney, who went into the final round tied for the lead, both pupils of swing coach Butch Harmon, both having won over the last few months.

They said this wouldn't be match play, but it sure looked like it.

Including ties, the lead changed seven times over the first 11 holes, with momentum swinging in both directions.

No one made a serious run at the leaders until Furyk's late charge, but there was plenty of



Phil Mickelson holds his trophy after winning the CA Championship golf tournament Sunday, March 15, 2009, in Doral, Fla.

action in the final group. What set the stage for the back-nine duel was a stunning turnaround at the par-3 ninth.

Mickelson, who fell behind for only one hole with a bogey at No. 4, built a two-shot lead when Watney made bogey from the bunker on No. 7 and Mickelson ripped a 3-wood from 256 yards over the water just over the par-5 eighth green for a birdie.

Mickelson was safely on the green at No. 9 when Watney pulled his tee shot over the green and down a ramp between the television toward and the grandstand. With nearly a dozen practice swings for a delicate shot, he flopped it up the slope, onto the green and charged up the hill when it dropped for birdie.

Just like that, he was only one shot behind. And with two beautiful swings on the par-5 10th, he had an 8-foot eagle putt. Walking toward the green, Watney rolled his shoulders

and pushed his palms toward the ground, reminded himself to stay calm.

He holed the eagle putt and was tied for the lead, but that was as sharp as he got.

Making a bogey from the bunker on the 11th was one thing, but he let Mickelson off the hook on the par-5 12th.

Lefty went well to the right and into the bushes, although he could see enough of the ball to consider swinging from the other side. He inverted a wedge for his right-handed shot, but it struck a tree and stayed in the rough. Mickelson took four shots to reach the green and made bogey.

Watney only had a 4-iron to the green and made bogey. He caught another nasty lie in the bunker, and this time caught it fat and left it in the bunker, eventually missing a 6-footer for par.

"I feel like I gave away two shots there," Watney said. "Having 4-iron to the green and making 6 there was pretty disappointing. I guess that's going to happen over 72 holes. Just try to work hard and come back better next time."

Mickelson is looking better than ever.

He won at Riviera three week ago, and his victory at Doral made it six straight seasons of winning multiple times, the longest active streak on the PGA Tour. He now has 36 victories to tie for 12th with Lloyd Mangrum on the career list.

And while he still hasn't reached the top of the ranking, Mickelson is more concerned with peaking for the Masters a month away.

"I cannot wait for that tournament to come," Mickelson said.

Cutler, McDaniels finally meet face-to-face



ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP)—Jay Cutler finally met face-to-face with Josh McDaniels

over the weekend, but nothing was resolved, leading to doubt the quarterback will show up for the new coach's first team meeting Monday.

The Denver Broncos' coach and Pro Bowl quarterback, who are involved in a simmering feud over trade talks, met Saturday at the team's training facility, and both sides agreed to regroup and continue conversations, team spokesman Patrick Smyth told The Associated Press.

But ESPN reported early Monday morning that Cutler would not be at Monday's team meeting.

"I certainly went back there, expecting I'd be there (Monday), but not now," Cutler told ESPN's Chris Mortensen. "It's not mandatory. I'll attend every mandatory mini-camp and training camp, but that's it. Re-

ally, it's best for me to move on. As coach said, he needs every eye in the meeting room to be on him and not me."

On Saturday, Cutler and his agent, Bus Cook, met with Mc-Daniels and general manager Brian Xanders in what the Broncos described as mild-mannered conversations at Dove Valley.

Denver station KCNC-TV reported that the meeting didn't go well, however, and The Denver Post reported that words were exchanged between Cutler and McDaniels.

Cook didn't return phone messages left by The AP on Sunday.

McDaniels isn't scheduled to address the media until the annual owners meeting in Dana Point, Calif., March 22-25.

But the Broncos insist they're not going to trade Cutler, who just played in his first Pro Bowl.

Cutler has deepened the drama by putting his 7,516-square foot home in suburban Parker on the market for \$2 million. And a smaller home owned by



At left, in a Jan. 12, 2009 file photo, Denver Broncos coach Josh McDaniels listens during a news conference in Englewood, Colo. At right, in an Oct. 5, 2008 file photo, Denver Broncos quarterback Jay Cutler looks on against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers during an NFL football game in Denver.

Cutler and his parents, Jack and Sandra Cutler, two miles away, is for sale for \$835,000. Cutler, however, is keeping his downtown Denver penthouse—at least for now.

On Saturday night, Cutler was a no-show at a fundraiser at Invesco Field where he was on the guest list. The Broncos said

Cutler didn't attend because he didn't want to be a distraction but that he made a donation to the cause, Dani's Foundation, which raises money for research and treatment for rare forms of cancer in children.

Team owner Pat Bowlen was in attendance, but he wouldn't answer any questions and waved off a reporter. Bowlen has yet to publicly address the rift between his new coach and his temperamental quarterback.

Cutler's name was brought up a lot at that event, a roast for longtime Broncos trainer Steve Antonopulos. Former Denver offensive lineman Mark Cooper, who played in the 1980s, cracked: "Times have changed around here. Now players cry when they hear they're going to be traded."

Cutler has been unhappy since learning that McDaniels, who was New England's offensive coordinator the last three seasons, entertained the notion of trading him to Tampa Bay in a three-way swap that would have brought quarterback Matt Cassel from the Patriots to Denver.

New England instead traded Cassel to Kansas City.

Cutler believes McDaniels, who replaced Mike Shanahan in January, misled him about those trade talks, and he has said he believes he'll be traded by draft weekend if the Broncos find the right deal.

McDaniels has said all he

did was listen to the trade proposals, as he would with any player, as he tries to rebuild a Broncos team that hasn't been to the playoffs since 2005.

The Broncos have been the NFL's most active team in free agency, signing 15 players, including quarterback Chris Simms, a former starter in Tampa Bay who has thrown just two passes since having emergency surgery to remove his spleen after a game in 2006.

Simms signed for two years and \$6 million, ostensibly to serve as Cutler's backup.

With his relationship with his starting quarterback strained, McDaniels wanted a face-to-face meeting once Cutler returned from his offseason home in Nashville, Tenn., so they could clear the air before the team's offseason training program kicks off Monday with his first team meeting.

If Cutler is a no-show, it will undermine McDaniels' authority and deepen the rift between the 25-year-old quarterback and the 32-year-old first-time head coach, perhaps irreparably.

Rabauliman leads batters in Junior League

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR. n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com REPORTER



CNMI

From Page 28

FITIAL

From Page 28

Regan Mality.

BAE

From Page 28

the back nine.

Henry Rabauliman Jr. of the Patriots currently averages

.571 in his at bats to lead the batting category in the Junior Division of the 2009 Saipan Little League Baseball.

As of March 1, Rabauliman hit 8-for-14 at bat to join five other teammates in the list of the Top 13 batting leaders based on eight or more at bats.

The other Patriots in the list are Alan Aguon (.538, 7-for-

Fairplay Award is kind of re-

warding for all the hard work

our players showed in the tour-

nament. They knew they are

the underdogs here, but they

never gave up, and almost tied

the match against Guam. They

showed tremendous discipline

and dedication, which are very

weight divisions and snatched

the gold in the bantamweight

division against silver medalist

But before that, he powered his

Alvarez went away with the

Manglona also clinched the

Wabol was off to a good start

with an even par 36 on the front

nine. Wabol nailed a birdie in

the No 9 hole but faltered in his

bid to wrestle the lead from Bae,

as the former shot only a 38 on

After saving par on hole Nos.

10, 11, 12, 13, and 14, Wabol

lost his chance to take the lead

when he bogeyed two of the last

four holes on the back nines for

Bae and Wabol received \$300

Completing the Top 3 and re-

gold in the featherweight divi-

sion as he outwitted silver med-

silver by ousting Barry Mality.

way to victories against Shane Al-

varez and Robert Quitugua.

13), Christian Mizer (.500, 6- for-12), Jeremy Rabauliman (.467, 7-for-15), Brian Camacho (.429, 6-for-14) and Jared Sablan (.364, 4-for-11).

The Patriots are currently at 5-1, counting their 11-8 triumph over the Red Sox last Saturday.

Lamarc Iguel of Ol'Aces was tied with Aguon at second with .538 (7-for-13).

Leroy Regis of Kagman Lion Heart also has .500 (5-of-10) batting average, while Clayton Aguon of the Red Sox hit .417 (5-for-12), Poland Masaharu of the Fielders has a .400 (4-for-10) clip, Gregorio Iskawa of Lion Heart is at .333

(3-for-9), Aldebert Lizama Jr. of mound in eight innings. the Red Sox is at .308 (4-for-13), and Anthony Flores of Ol'Aces is norming .273 (3-for-11).

Mizer and Sablan had the most runs with 10 each. Mizer is also tied with Regis with most doubles with three apiece.

Jeremy Rabauliman has the most triples with two. He also tied Iguel and Richard Borja Jr., also of the Patriots, in most homeruns with one each.

Iguel has the most RBIs with eight.

Sablan is the current leader in pitching with his 0.00 ERA after a no-error performance on the

Frankie Camacho has 1.40 ERA, with one error in five innings. Jeremy Rabauliman is third with his 1.75 (1-of-4).

Rounding out the lists are Clayton Aguon (2.00), Jake Santos of Ol'Aces (2.80), Brian Camacho (3.23), Lizama (4.08), Patrick Tenorio of the Fielders (4.85), Ricky Riungel of D-9ers (5.25), and Ricardo Dela Cruz of Lion Heart (5.25).

Lizama is leading in strikeouts with 13, Camacho has 12, Jeremy Rabuliman has nine, while Sablan, Tenorio, and Santos knocked down eight each.

important in a team that is just starting to grow," CNMI coach Sugao Kambe said.

"We could have tied Guam in the second half, but our players just could not get the breaks. Nevertheless, we put up a good fight, scoring in all three games, and that's quite an achievement for an inexperienced team like us," Kambe added.

The final standings in the preliminary competition

showed Guam on top with a 2-0-1 win-loss-draw record for seven points. Guam tied Macau in a crucial game, 2-2. Had Macau won, there could have been a three-way tie for the top spot. But Macau ended in third with a 1-1-1 slate for four points, while Mongolia placed second with its 2-1 re-

Guam's midfielder Jason Ryan Cunliffe was adjudged

Another Guam fighter, Ryan

Urquizu, bagged the gold in the

lightweight category via arm-

lock at the expense of Saipan's

Geovanni Sablan, who settled

for the silver while Patrick

Alepuyo hacked Korean Tom

In the middleweight class, Eric

Atdao nailed an overwhelm-

ing 8-0 victory against Syl "The

Atdao posted wins against three

opponents in Group A including

Skyler Taitano, Chris Hockabee,

and Ron Chisato to arrange the

Deal" Teregoyo for the gold.

cord for six points.

Kim for the bronze.

MVP of the tournament, while teammate Bret Simon Maluwelmen was named best goalie.

The Best Defender Award went to Mongolia's Munkhbat Chimeddorj, while Chan Kin Seng of Macau emerged as top scorer with four goals.

Guam advanced to the semifinal round, which will be played in Tainan Taiwan and will also feature teams from Chinese-Taipei, China, and Hong Kong.

final match-up with Teregoyo.

Teregoyo was undefeated in Group B by winning over Japan's Kenji Onuma, Pete Mendiola, and Japanese Takeshi Furukawa before losing to Atdao.

Ron Chisato brought home the bronze by beating Neil Taisacan.

Rage Adelbai prevailed over Byron Evaristo in their gold medal showdown in the welterweight class.

Adelbai's triumphs included wins against Darryl Salas and Rusty Ada, who won the bronze against Kenny Blas.

alist Alvarick Alvarez of Trench Tech in their final bout.

In the preliminaries, Manglona ousted Vince Masga and Mike Sanchez, who took the bronze by defeating Jay Muna.

Chris "No Luv" Laayug also proved his dominance in the super lightweight by winning over Korean Min Joo Jung in their gold medal bout.

Laayug cruised to the finals by beating Derek Rangamar and Ezra Caro in the preliminaries.

Rangamar went home with the silver.

ceiving \$100 was Ned Norita,

who shot a 3-over par 75 and

beat Ralph Yumul on the score-

card playoff in hole No. 1. Nori-

ta birdied the par-5 No. 1, while

In the Ladies gross, Kim Yang

won the top purse of \$300 after

firing an 84 and defeating Clara

Chang on the scorecard playoff.

Yang bogeyed the No. 1 hole

Yang had a 44 on the front nine,

but redeemed herself on the back

with 40. Chang was consistent

Wha Sook Guzman finished

In the double peoria division,

Manny Batallones triumphed

with her 42 on both nines.

third with an 89.

against Chang's double bogey.

Yumul only saved par.

with his net 70.2. Batallones, who had a 10.8 handicap, shot a 40 on the front and 41 on the

back to take home \$300. San Jose Parish Council president Manny Mangarero, who helped organize the event along with his fellow golfers, claimed second place and \$250 cash with his net 70.4.

Mangarero, who had a 15.6 handicap, drilled a 41 and 45 on the front and back nines, respectively, for a gross 86.

Winning \$150 for finishing third was Jesse Seman, who recorded a net 70.6. Seman registered an 8.4 handicap and fired a 1-under par 35 on the front and a 44 on the back for a gross 79.

Rounding off the Top 10 finishers in the double peoria division were Bae (71), Ralph Yumul (71.4), Ned Norita (71.4), Joe Lizama (71.6), Gus Camacho (71.6), Yasu Irinaka (71.6), and Chang (71.8).

The inaugural San Jose golfest drew 71 participants and had closest to the pin contests in three holes. Jerry Ayuyu won in hole No. 8, Ray Villagomez prevailed in hole No. 12, and Tars Olopai in hole No. 6.

Meanwhile, San Jose Parish priest Jesse Reves and Mangarero thanked golfers, sponsors, and volunteers who made the event possible. They also bowed to make the tournament an annual event.

sealed the doom for Docomo, as

James Villacrusis nailed dropped to a 4-7 slate.

In the second game, the CNMI Nationals downed IT&E, 89-86.

icho Cruz fired 22 points each to lift the Nationals to a 9-2 record. The Nationals are still on top of the field and are guaranteed to take the No. 1 seeding in the playoffs. They are lead-

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

Robert Allenby

Ben Curtis Davis Love III

Sergio Garcia

Carl Petterssor

Martin Kaymer

Dustin Johnson

Peter Hanson

Stephen Ames

Briny Baird

Pat Perez

Mike Weir

Ken Duke

Geoff Ogilvy

Ryuji Imada

Darren Clarke Andres Romero

Shingo Katayama

Garth Mulroy

Ross Fisher

Mark Brown

Rory Sabbatini

Zach Johnson

Hunter Mahan

Chad Campbell

Vijay Singh

Anthony Kim

Stewart Cink

Boo Weekley

Adam Scott

Lee Westwood

Kevin Sutherland

Graeme McDowell

Stuart Appleby

Wen-Tang Lin

Retief Goosen

John Rollins Bubba Watson

Miguel Angel Jime

Henrik Stenson

Pablo Larrazabal

Y.E. Yang

Billy Mayfair

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76 71 71 73 291 72 71 74 75 292

70 76 72 75 293

77 71 76 73 297

75 72 75 76 298

69 73 73 83 298

76 71 75 77 299 75 69 34 DQ 178

By The Associated Press

73 70 73 78 294 nez 69 72 76 78 295

EASTERN CONFERENCE Atlantic Division

W	L	Pct	GB
50	17	.746	_
33	31	.516	15 1/2
28	37	.431	21
28	38	.424	21 1/2
24	43	.358	26
	50 33 28 28	50 17 33 31 28 37 28 38	50 17 .746 33 31 .516

Central Division

Detroit	33 32	.508	19 1/2				
Milwaukee	31 38	.449	23 1/2				
Chicago	30 37	.448	23 1/2				
Indiana	28 40	.412	26				
Southeast Division							

x-Orlando	49	17	.742	_
Atlanta	39	28	.582	10 12
Miami	36	30	.545	13
Charlotte	28	38	.424	21
Washington	16	51	.239	33 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE **Southwest Division**

43 25 .632 21/2 Houston .631 40 27 .597

17 48 .262 27 Memphis

Northwest			
Denver	42 25	.627	_
Portland	41 25	.621	0.1/2
Utah	41 26	.612	1
Minnesota	20 46	.303	21 1/2

Pacific Division

y-LA Lakers	53	13	.803	-
Phoenix	36	31	.537	17 1/2
Golden State	23	43	.348	30
LA Clippers	15	50	.231	37 1/2
Sacramento	14	52	.212	39

Oklahoma City 18 48 .273 23 1/2

Yesterday's Games Toronto 110, Indiana 87

Memphis 89, Detroit 84 Milwaukee 86, Boston 77 Atlanta 98, Portland 80 Philadelphia 85, Miami 77 LA Lakers 107, Dallas 100 Washington 106, Sacramento 104 Orlando 105, Utah 87 Cleveland 98, New York 93 Phoenix 154, Golden State 130 LA Clippers 107, New Jersey 105

x-clinched playoff spot y-clinched division

WGC-CA CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

FINAL ROUND

Phil Mickelson	65	66	69 69	26
Nick Watney	66	67	67 70	27
Jim Furyk	68	68	69 67	27
Jeev Milkha Singh	65	71	68 70	27
Oliver Wilson	67	70	72 66	27
Camilo Villegas	67	68	69 71	27
Soren Kjeldsen	70	66	69 71	27
Tiger Woods	71	70	68 68	27
Rod Pampling	66	69	71 71	27
Justin Leonard	69	69	68 71	27
Kenny Perry	70	64	71 72	27
Sean O'Hair	67	70	74 67	27
lan Poulter	69	67	73 69	27
Steve Stricker	69	70	70 69	27
Prayad Marksaeng	65	70	72 71	27
Soren Hansen	74	69	64 71	27
Alvaro Quiros	72	64	69 73	27
Charley Hoffman	68	70	67 73	27
Justin Rose	73	70	68 68	27
Louis Oosthuizen	67	69	73 70	27
Ernie Els	70	71	68 70	27
Padraig Harrington	66	71	71 71	27
Luke Donald	69	70	68 72	27
James Kingston	66	74	67 72	27
Rory McIlroy	68	66	72 73	27
Tim Clark	71	71	69 69	28

LOCAL SCORES

BUDWEISER CAGING LEADERS

SCORING

Freddie Pelisamen (Ol'Aces)	32
Raymond Cadagat (Quichocho Law Office)	22
Pete Iguel (CNMI Nationals)	22
Kelvin Bernardo (IT&E)	174
Jesus Iguel (Runnin' Rebels)	156

HEDOUNDS	
Sylvan Teregeyo (Runnin' Rebels)	94
Kelvin Bernardo (IT&E)	8
Christopher Paul (Docomo)	78
Gabriel White (Ol'Aces)	7
Kelvin Fitial (Docomo)	7!

Remit Fillal (Docomo)	1
ASSISTS	
Andres Estolas (IT&E)	50
Jomany Tumaquip (CNMI Nationals)	49
Jose Tumaquip (Runnin' Rebels)	47

Wowie Abuel (IT&E)

Joseph Villacrusis (Docomo)

Jomary Tumaquip (CNMI Nationals)	44
Jesus Iguel (Runnin' Rebels)	39
Denard Norita (Runnin' Rebels)	35
Pete Iguel (CNMI Nationals)	33
Leorico Itaas (Quichocho Law Office)	31
DI GOL GUIGTO	

BLOCK SHOTS	
Robert Coldeen Jr. (Runnin' Rebels)	12
Christopher Paul (Docomo)	10
Melvin Manibusan (Docomo)	10
Ben Lisua (Runnin' Rebels)	10
Denard Norita (Runnin' Rehele)	a

Robert Coldeen Jr. (Runnin' Rebels)	12
Christopher Paul (Docomo)	10
Melvin Manibusan (Docomo)	10
Ben Lisua (Runnin' Rebels)	10
Denard Norita (Runnin' Rebels)	9

DIAMOND

a gross 2-over par 74.

and 200, respectively.

From Page 28

ing into the last one minute and 24 seconds of the fourth quarter. The Auto Fixers preserved the lead and took the win after canning six free throws in the remaining minute of the game.

Diamond was ahead, 78-75, and Docomo had a chance to tie the game when Ryan Sanciangco pulled up for a triple, missed the shot, and drew a foul from Brendo Talania, with 46.1 seconds left on the clock. But Sanciangco

missed his first free throw before making the last two to cut the lead to one, 77-78.

Docomo's Kelvin Fitial intentionally fouled Bruce Berline in Diamond's next offensive set, hoping the Auto Fixers' center would miss. But Docomo's gamble did not pay off, as Berline calmly sank two pressure-packed charities, increasing Diamond's lead to three, 80-77.

James Villacrusis missed a desperation three, but Fitial grabbed the offensive rebound and drew a foul on his way to the basket. Again, free throw woes Fitial spit his charities.

In contrast, Diamond's Talania and Pando Muleta both went 2-for-2 from the 15-foot line in the last 25 seconds of the match to complete a comefrom-behind win.

Diamond now has a 6-5 record and will play its last game tomorrow against the Ol'Aces. Diamond, which had a 2-4 slate in the first round of the two-round robin regular season, is on a roll in the second round winning three straight games and four of the last five matches in that round.

Esdrelon top-scored for Diamond with 19 points, while Talania and Muleta chipped in 18 and 16 markers, respectively.

27 points for Docomo, which

Marvin Rabauliman and Jering by two wins against IT&E, which dropped to a 7-5 slate. The last four games in the

regular season will determine the seedings of six other teams that will join the Nationals in the single-elimination playoffs. The Ol'Aces are in third place with a 6-4 slate, followed by Diamond (6-5), Quichocho Law Office (5-7), Docomo (4-7), and the Runnin' Rebels (2-9).

First Game

Diamond 84 – Esdrelon 19, Talania 18, Muleta 16, Guiab 9, Berline 7, Joyner 7, Fernandez 4, Capalad 4.

Docomo 78 - Ja. Villacrusis 27, Sanciangco 21, Fitial 17, Paul 5, Lee 4, Palacios 2, Diaz 1, Jo. Villacrusis 1.

Scoring by quarters: 15-25, 36-40, 52-56, 84-78.

Second Game

CNMI Nationals 89 - Rabauliman 22, Cruz 22, Johnson 15, Chariton 11, Tumaquip 9, White 6, Moses 4.

IT&E 86 - Bernardo 35, Abuel 14, De Dios 12, Ranola 8, Ruluked 7, Artates 6, Montano 4.

Scoring by quarters: 19-17, 31-25, 62-54, 89-86.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2009 **27**

SSC International Invitational Meet



Photos By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



From left, girls' 8-and-under third placer Sarah Klassen, runner-up Emma Martinsen, and champion Brooke Lamoureux.

SSC swimmers pose with their medals during the awards ceremony for the SSC International Invitational Meet at Saipan World Resort on March 8, 2009.



SSC's Matthew Klassen competes in the 50m butterfly.



Tsunami Saipan swimmers plunge into the pool in a warm up exercise.

CNMI Sports Hall of Fame inductee and now SSC coach Mike Villagomez races in the 50m butterfly.

A Tarakito Swim Club coach helps stretches his swimmers' arms before



Tsunami Saipan's Angel Tan, left, and Angel de Jesus warm up for the afternoon session of the meet.





Tsunami Saipan's Shin Kimura warms up for the 100m backstroke event.

Tsunami Saipan's Dylan Ackerman competes in the 200m freestyle swim. A Tsunami Saipan swimmer catches his breath.



Rabauliman leads batters in **Junior League**

Henry Rabauliman Jr. of the Patriots currently averages .571 in his at bats to lead the batting category in the Junior Division of the 2009 Saipan Little League Baseball. **26**



Team USA beats Netherlands, 9-3

Baseball looked more like America's national pastime Sunday night.



28 TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2009

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

CNMI gets fairplay award in Guam

REPORTER

he CNMI Men's Football Team did not return to Saipan empty-handed after taking home the Fairplay Award in the East Asian Football Championship 2010 Preliminary Competition which concluded Sunday at the Leo Palace Resort in Guam.

The CNMI was the only non-FIFA ranked squad that played in the EAFF qualifier, but held its ground against eventual winner Guam, Mongolia, and Macau.



T h e CNMI strikers scored in all three games with Joe Miller, team captain Peter

Loken, and Nick Swaim credited for one goal each.

Other members of the team are Evan Hunsberger, Yoshi Gabaldon, David Duenas, Brad Ruszala, Steve McKagan, Ben Wood, Gilmark Reusora, Jeffrey Cloud, Peter Houk, Dale Roberts, Jason Schroeder, Lucas Knecht, Bradley Brostrom, Daniel Macario, Jose Duenas, Chris Nelson, and Norman Camacho.

'We may have not won the tournament, but winning the See CNMI on Page 26



The CNMI's Jeff Cloud (11) is crowded by Mongolia defenders during their last game in the East Asian Football Championship 2010 Preliminary Competition Sunday at the Leo Palace Resort in Guam.

Bae tops San Jose golf tournament

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Korean pro Bae Yong Man tamed the Kingfisher Golf Links, becoming the only golfer to finish under par against the windy condition at the Talofofo course en route to winning the low gross division in the Inaugural San Jose Church **Fundraising** Tournament Saturday.

Bae drilled a 1-under par 71 in the 6,216yard course, as he had an impressive showing in the first nine holes with a 3-under par 33. Bae birdied the par-4 No. 3 and par-3 No. 6, and had a double birdie on the par-5 No. 9.



Bae Yong Man watches his shot on the No. 18 hole during the San Jose Church Fundraising Tournament Saturday at the Kingfisher Golf Links.

The Korean pro struggled in the last nine holes with a 2-over par 38 for a three-stroke win over flightmate Jess Wabol.

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Fitial bags heavyweight gold

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Saipan's Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fitial asserted his lofty billing in the heavyweight class, while Guam's Jesse Manglona became the only fighter to win two gold medals at the conclu-

sion of the All-Island Grappling Submissions Challenge: The Art of War III last Saturday at Fiesta Resort and Spa's Hibiscus Hall.

Fitial won on points against

silver medalist Francis Mendiola during their final bout.

Earlier in the preliminaries, Fitial outwitted Marcus Estrada and Evangelis Babauta. The latter eventually settled for the bronze by beating Estrada.

Manglona fought in two See FITIAL on Page 26



Diamond rallies

past Docomo

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Diamond Auto Care recovered from a double-digit deficit in the fourth quarter to eke out an 84-78 victory over Docomo in the 2008-2009 BANMI/Budweiser Basketball League Friday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

A 15-2 run in a span of five minutes helped Diamond turn a 60-72 deficit to a 75-74 lead, go-

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Docomo's Joseph Villacrusis, right, fumbles as he tries to dribble out of the defense of Diamond's Junar Guiab during their game in the Budweiser caging Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



TRENCH TRECH



NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Kelvin Fitial is on top of Evangelis Babauta in their preliminary bout in the Art of War III last Saturday at the Hibiscus Hall of Fiesta Resort and Spa. Fitial won en route to winning the gold in the heavyweight division.